

PRESS RELEASE

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Partnership for prosperity

New Charter Housing Trust Group and Aksa Housing Association (based in Oldham) are exploring how they can work more closely together for the benefit of their tenants in the Greater Manchester area.

Ian Munro Group Chief Executive of New Charter said: “We are looking for ways to grow in line with our Business Plan. I want to continually improve service for customers. I believe an alliance with Aksa would be good for all our customers and both organisations”.

Sajjad Hussain, Chief Executive of Aksa added: “Combining our expertise, financial strength and organisational capacity makes sense, especially as the housing association sector is in a significant period of change. Both New Charter and Aksa are well regarded by customers, so we have some similarities.”

Boards of both organisations have backed the talks, and believe the opportunity offers many mutual benefits.



business for neighbourhoods

The proposals are at a very early stage, but both Hussain and Munro are clear they will only move forward if the alliance means even better services to residents, and increased business efficiency and effectiveness.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of almost £60million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. It owns just under 14,900 homes.
2. Aksa Housing Association registered with the Housing Corporation in 1990. It was originally known as Oldham Muslim Association, but changed to Aksa following the merger with Bury-based Dar-ul Aman Housing Association in 1995. It owns 640 homes in Oldham, Manchester, Tameside and Bury.
3. Existing tenants rights and responsibilities would be unaffected by the proposed partnership.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project to improve housing associations' performance, and challenge negative perceptions of the sector and its customers. The project was launched at the National Housing Federation's annual conference in 2003. To date, 75 per cent of the sector's stock – over 1.4 million homes – is managed by associations who have joined the initiative and made fresh commitments to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000

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