

PRESS RELEASE

18th May 2005

New car for cops



Photographs of handover at Cavendish 249 with Inspector Vincent Greener and Group Chief Executive Ian Munro available

Neighbourhood policing has a boost following the latest partnership between New Charter and Greater Manchester Police.

The landlord has bought the local police a new car to patrol neighbourhoods, attend to incidents and provide mobile video surveillance. Tenants and residents in Stalybridge, Mossley and Dukinfield will see the new vehicle on their streets from today.

The vehicle will be used exclusively in these areas, except in emergencies at the discretion of GM Police.



Speaking as he handed over the keys, Ian Munro, New Charters' Group Chief Executive said: "Our customers tell us they want even better policing, and I know our local force is striving to meet expectations. We're prepared to actively help our partners deliver better services to protect our massive investment in homes and neighbourhoods. We've already provided the force with state of the art cameras to collect evidence; and alarms to install in burglary hotspots."

Inspector Vincent Greener said: "Our partnership with New Charter is more than just sharing information. Extras such as this help us increase our presence and put visible policing into neighbourhoods. I want to provide reassurance for the vast majority of residents that we're working together to deter and detect crime. I'm delighted that New Charter has reinforced our alliance in such a practical way".

The Skoda Octavia car has been specially marked to warn that video surveillance is carried out from the vehicle. It will collect images that can be used as evidence in Court.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter took the whole council housing stock of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester on 27th March 2000. 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 now owns 14,600 homes.
2. New Charter has given £8,000 as part of our continuing commitment to supporting Neighbourhoods and the community. This donation has been used for the purchase of a motor vehicle chosen by and now owned by GM Police for the purpose of supporting Neighbourhood Policing. When eventually sold, the proceeds will be returned to New Charter.

3. New Charter is investing well over £25million a year into improving and upgrading homes and estates
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

ENDS



business for neighbourhoods