

PRESS RELEASE

2nd June 2005

Great save!

The gigantic Office Depot warehouse and call centre may just be arriving in Ashton, but New Charter has been using it for several years as preferred supplier - and saving local tenants cash.

The new 287,000 sq. ft premises of the office supplies giant are opening close to junction 23 of the M60 Manchester Outer Ring Road and are visible for several miles. Office Depot is the largest supplier of office equipment and stationery in the world. This month, it starts supplying many national housing organisations through the Procurement for Housing purchasing consortia. But New Charter has been saving since 2001.

Spending more wisely is now a key part of the government's efficiency drive. New Charter's status as a not-for-profit company means savings have to be passed on to customers. Reducing supplies costs frees up cash to spend on initiatives which directly benefit tenants.

Group Director of Property Services Steve Nettleton said : 'We've always been keen to buy our supplies at the most competitive rates. Our membership of Procurement for Housing



business for neighbourhoods

has confirmed our use of Office Depot as the best. We'll make further savings with centralised billing – spending less on administration and more on tenants. Office Depot will be close neighbours to our head office at the top of Cavendish Street. I'm pleased we're also supporting another company based locally, and generating more employment opportunities.”

The opening of Office Depot is further confirmation of the success of the Ashton Underlined initiative. Investment attracted to the area is creating jobs and opportunities in retail, commercial and leisure facilities.

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. It now owns 14,600 homes.
2. Procurement for Housing is a national procurement organisation dedicated to the housing sector. Using the collective purchasing power of members, it is able to tender for the best deals across a range of product areas, from office equipment to building supplies.
3. **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, 80 per cent of the sector's stock – over 1.5 million homes – is managed by associations who have joined the initiative and made fresh commitments to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence.

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