

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

7th April 2009

Green Paper reaction from New Charter

Pictures available

The Conservative party issued its Green Paper on Housing today.

New Charter provided locations and tenants for the BBC to feature an item about a key proposal from the Green Paper on the main 6 o'clock news yesterday.

Proposing a 'right to move', shadow housing minister Grant Shapps MP claimed tenants renting from a council or housing association who want to move to a different area of the country should be able to force the landlord to sell their home. The proceeds would then be used by the landlord to buy another home in the place they want to live.

The Tories believe the proposal would make it easier for people in social housing to move to find work.

Speaking after publication, New Charter's Group Chief Executive Ian Munro said: "We help tenants back to work ourselves and support other ways of improving job opportunities. But the idea that we are made to sell homes and buy others around the country flies in the face of why our tenants have placed us at the top of the satisfaction league tables.

"We manage local services well because we understand local people. Our accountability and speed of response reflect our commitment to managing neighbourhoods. We're interested in growing, but creating absentee landlords pepper-potted across the country won't improve housing services for customers."



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 £59million a year and a workforce of 840, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes, and was named in the Sunday Times best 100 companies to work for in 2009.
2. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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