

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Chartist can't wait for Copenhagen

Pictures available

The UN climate change conference in Copenhagen will seek agreement to reduce carbon emissions worldwide, but one local landmark can't wait.

The tallest building in Hyde made a very public commitment to reducing greenhouse gases last weekend. A pod containing a fully fitted plant room was lifted by crane to the top of the 16-storey Chartist House on Sunday.

New Charter is installing an innovative district heating system to the 93 apartments, 38 of which are sheltered housing. It will dramatically reduce CO2 emissions and give residents cheaper heating bills.

Main contractor Belfry Group Limited of Warrington is also rewiring the shared areas of tower block, but internal access restrictions meant the plant room could not be constructed on the roof. So it was winched by a huge crane over 160 feet to settle on a specially strengthened platform.

Some residents of the upper floors had to leave their apartments during the lift, and were provided with refreshments in both the lounge and a local supermarket cafe.

New Charter's Director of Property Services Steve Nettleton said: "I thank all our residents for their patience and cooperation. We planned the operation to cause minimal disruption for them and the surrounding neighbourhood. I'm pleased it went without a hitch.

"The new heating system is expected to reduce CO2 emissions from 160,000kg to 69,000kg. As importantly for our residents, heating bills should fall and space will be gained by removing individual boilers."

Twenty solar panels were also lifted into place. They will preheat the water circulating to the boiler to reduce running costs still further.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 880, New Charter is one of the region's largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named in The Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in 2009.
2. The plant room measures 5.5m x 3m x 2m and weighs 8.5 tonnes. The roof was strengthened prior to installation. The boiler room sits on a steel platform which was also winched up, along with 20 solar panels.
3. **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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