
September 30, 2010

Wizard of Orr endorses New Charter at AGM

FRIENDS of New charter Housing Trust that have been instrumental in shaping the company since its inception in 2000 were invited to the company's 10th annual general meeting.

Guest speaker David Orr, chief executive of the National Federation of Housing, spoke of difficult times ahead for social landlords as public sector funding is cut and the social housing's regulatory body the Tenants Services Authority (TSA) is scrapped.

However he added that innovative thinking at the company, based in Ashton-Under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, puts it in a strong position to weather the storm.

Also speaking at the event was group chief executive Ian Munro, who said he was proud of the contribution the company has made to the lives of people in the community.

He told guests including local councillors, tenant board members past and present, and representatives from New Charter's partner organisations: "Over the last 10 years we've made a massive difference to people's lives. I'm really proud of the difference that people in this room have made together."

Ian went on to speak of some of the Trust's achievements over the past year, which include accreditation to the Tenants Participation Advisory Service (TPAS), and being named sixth best employer in the UK by the Sunday Times newspaper.

Ian added: "We are in a very strong place, both as an employer and as a housing association. The efforts of everyone here have helped us achieve and maintain one of the best satisfaction rates in the country and have put us in a very strong place to go forward."

"To get into this strong position and maintain it has taken heart, brains and courage."

The last comment was a cue for pupils from the New Charter Academy to take to the stage and entertain guests with a selection of songs from their production of the Wizard of Oz.

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WORDS: 306

Notes to 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. The Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named at 6th place in The Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in 2010.

2. Aksa Housing Association is a registered provider of social housing. It has operated since 1990 and owns over 670 homes in Oldham, Tameside, Bury and North Manchester. Its offices are in Oldham town centre, and its Board chose to join New Charter in November 2005.

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.

For More information contact Bob Clowrey at New Charter

robert.clowrey@newcharter.co.uk

Or telephone

0161 331 2370

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