

PRESS RELEASE

25th June 2001

TENANTS TO VOTE ON NEW CHARTER DIRECTORS

The General Election may be over and done, but for tenants of New Charter the voting starts now!

An important part of New Charter's constitution is the representation of tenants on the Boards. The landlord was set up to take the transfer of former council homes from Tameside Council in March 2000. A meeting in April 1999 initially elected the existing Tenant Directors. The ballots this week are part of the democratic renewal of Boards. Those elected will serve for three years. There can be no payment for Directors under strict Housing Corporation rules.

There are four places reserved for tenants on each of the two landlords, New Charter Housing (North) and New Charter Housing (South). In the North, there are ten candidates competing, and five will contest the places in the South.

Speaking this week, Danny McLoughlin, New Charter's Company Secretary, said "I would urge all tenants to read the election material carefully, and post their votes.

Representatives of the existing Boards and the Tameside Tenants' & Residents' Federation plumped for the Single Transferable Vote as the fairest way forward.”

All tenants will receive their ballot papers this week. The independent Electoral Reform Society will run the ballots, which will use the Single Transferable Vote system.

Tenants have until 18th July to return their votes and the result will be declared shortly after.

ENDS.

Note to editors.

New Charter is governed by Boards comprising one-third tenants, one-third Council nominees and one-third independent experts. Tenants bring their personal knowledge and experience of services to the Boards, and are essential in reflecting the customer perspective on decisions.

New Charter is regulated by the Housing Corporation, a government body that closely supervises the activities of Registered Social Landlords. Those taking seats on the Boards cannot by law be paid.