

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **A Big Move for Britain's Largest Housing Transfer**

New Charter is an RSL "Local Housing Company" formed for the transfer of Tameside Council's housing stock. It is still Britain's biggest housing transfer with a stock total of nearly 16,500 properties, a turnover of £53million per year, and a workforce of approximately 800.

The Group comprises:

- 2 Landlord Companies – New Charter Housing (North) Limited**  
**New Charter Housing (South) Limited**
- A Building Company – New Charter Building Company Limited**
- A Parent Company – New Charter Housing Trust Limited**

Boards consist of a membership from tenants, the Council, and professionals, in equal numbers. Very few RSLs have such good tenant involvement on Boards as New Charter.

With a reputation of being the first RSL to receive an entire stock from a Metropolitan Borough, New Charter are unique in the RSL world in having a very large direct works. They are also the seventh largest RSL in the Country.

Tenants voted two to one in favour of transfer last October. The transfer of properties took place in March this year.

New Charter took over a stock and service that was badly under-funded. £220 million investment was needed to bring the transferred homes up to a reasonable condition.

They have embarked on a 10 year improvement programme installing new bathrooms, kitchens, windows, and central heating, to most of the properties. Already hundreds of tenants have benefited from the improvement schemes which started on day one after transfer.

Investment is funded by private borrowing from one of the largest Building Societies in the Country - Nationwide Building Society. Not a penny of Approved Development Programme (ADP) or other public funds are being used.

As well as improving homes, New Charter are also improving services. With more money it means a vastly improved day to day repairs service – both in quality and speed of response. Plans are also afoot to improve how tenants access services – better integrated computer systems, new offices, better call centre facilities.

### **The Role Of The Housing Corporation**

Ian Munro – Group Chief Executive said “Our organisation had to transform overnight from a Council Housing Department to a modern RSL”. “The Housing Corporation worked closely with New Charter providing invaluable help and guidance to achieve the transformation”. “This joint working has continued post-registration to ensure that New Charter is a first class organisation capable of meeting all future challenges”.

“Our number one priority now is meeting the promises made to tenants – delivering all the improvements, and guaranteeing that rent increases are low”. In the future, New Charter hope to continue working with the Housing Corporation for ADP funded new projects”.

**ENDS.**

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### **Note to Editors**

New Charter Housing Trust Group is the organisation that took over nearly 16,500 homes from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester, in March of this year. **It is Britain’s biggest housing transfer.**

**Group Chief Executive – Ian Munro.**

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**CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES:**

**Paula Thomas – 0161-331-2000**