

# Immediate Release

HB/SS Wednesday, 21 May 2008

OLDHAM'S longest established building company Emanuel Whittaker Ltd have collaborated with the borough's leading social housing provider First Choice Homes Oldham to win a prestigious award.



***Celebrating Excellence Clive Newton (Director of Emanuel Whittaker), Jackie Stanton (Vice Chair FCHO), Lisa Brown (Tenant Participation Officer FCHO), Hugh Broadbent (Chief Executive FCHO), Harry Burns (Chair of FCHO), Mark Reynolds (Service Director for Strategic Housing OMBC), John Gallagher (Director of Emanuel Whittaker), Julie Hughes (Resident of Hollinwood), Martyn Pickles (Hollinwood Area Building Surveyor for FCHO).***

**The Housing Excellence Awards Winner 2008 - Regeneration Scheme of the Year, was presented to the First Choice Homes Oldham's Board, Emanuel Whittaker and McInerney Homes, on Tuesday, 20th at FCHO Head Quarters for the Hollinwood Refurbishment and Redevelopment Project.**

Hugh Broadbent, Chief Executive of First Choice Homes Oldham, Directors Clive Newton and John Gallagher from Emanuel Whittaker Ltd to received the award at a gala dinner last week.

The award also recognised the part played by McInerney Homes, a Bolton company which also contributed to the transformation of the area by creating over 100 new build homes and apartments for sale as part of what is now a most desirable mixed development. The nomination also cited Oldham MBC, the team at SRB which contributed additional funding, local residents and the

Hollinwood Steering Group for their efforts in what was described as a 'truly a team performance'.

First Choice Homes Oldham and Whittakers started work in the area in 2001 when problematic bedsits and maisonettes were demolished and the popular while run-down family homes were completely refurbished, internally and externally. The team then moved on to the refurbishment of the Montgomery House tower block, which was given a total face lift externally, with new windows and external rendering. All the flats had new kitchens and internal improvements.

Once all the existing dwellings had been completely transformed, McInerney commenced the new-build work.

Emanuel Whittaker joined forces with FCHO to renovate gardens, parking facilities and makeover a network of troublesome back alleys in what was a major environmental improvement scheme. The open plan estate has been transformed to houses with larger back gardens, clearly defined front gardens, driveways, and elegant black metal bow top fencing.

Additional visitor parking around the estate couple with traffic calming measures have made the estate both accessible and safe. Hollinwood has always given people a sense of home and a sense of place. Once again the community has both the houses and the surroundings that it deserves," said Emanuel Whittaker managing director Clive Newton.

Only four were schemes were shortlisted and the Hollinwood project beat schemes from Liverpool, Huddersfield and Hattersley.

## **Quotes**

Julie Hughes, Resident of Hollinwood commented. "This has been a real benefit to the area, residents have worked with builders throughout the project."

## **Ends**

## **Notes to the Editor**

Photo are available for publication. Please contact Shirish Singapori, Marketing and Communications Manager on:  
fcho.shirish.singapori@oldham.gov.uk

First Choice Homes Oldham is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) managing council-owned property in the Oldham area, set up in April 2002.

First Choice Homes Oldham has been assessed by the Audit Commission as delivering good (Two Star) housing service and has promising prospects for improvement.

Oldham is one of 40 nationally identified Respect Pathfinders  
FCHO have signed up to the Respect Standard (Housing Management)

Its mission is:

“To work together with customers and partners to create high quality, sustainable homes and communities – where people from all backgrounds want to live – by delivering excellent housing services.”

For more information on:

**First Choice Homes Oldham**

Marketing and Communications Manager, Shirish Singapori

fcho.shirish.singapori@oldham.gov.uk

0161 770 4557

[www.fcho.co.uk](http://www.fcho.co.uk)

**Emanuel Whittaker**

Director, Clive Newton

0161 785 5515

[www.emanuel-whittaker.co.uk](http://www.emanuel-whittaker.co.uk)

**McInerney Homes**

Bill Fulster

07791154217

[www.mcinerneyhomes.com](http://www.mcinerneyhomes.com)

**Housing Excellence Awards**

Editor, Chris Newbould

0161 236 2782

[www.housingexcellence.co.uk](http://www.housingexcellence.co.uk)