

Appendix 1

Description of the group

Irwell Valley Housing Association (Irwell Valley) owns over 7000 homes, and just under 400 supported housing units, concentrated within five boroughs in Greater Manchester. The group was set up in 1975 and grew considerably in March 2000 with the transfer of approximately 1600 properties in Sale from Manchester City Council. In April 2005 Irwell Valley grew again, with the transfer of 1000 properties in Haughton Green from Manchester City Council. It also provides homes for shared ownership and outright sale.

Irwell Valley is best known for its innovative Gold Service housing management initiative, which offers incentives to tenants to meet their tenancy agreement.

The group comprises:

- Irwell Valley Housing Association, the charitable, stock owning, registered parent body
- Pendleton Improved Homes Ltd, a registered subsidiary carrying out improvement works to the transferred properties in Sale
- Irwell Valley Developments Ltd, an unregistered subsidiary which provides construction services to Irwell Valley Housing Association and Pendleton Improved Homes Ltd
- New Quarter, an unregistered subsidiary which markets shared ownership properties and homes for market rent
- AU79 Ltd and AU (Europe) Ltd, unregistered subsidiaries promoting the adoption of the Gold Service initiative by other organisations.

Irwell Valley also manages Edward Pilkington Memorial Houses, a registered charitable almshouse, for which Irwell Valley acts as a charitable trustee and management agent. The group works in a number of areas with relatively high concentrations of ethnic minority populations and in areas experiencing changing patterns of demand.