

Appendix 1

Description of the group

Pennine Housing 2000 Limited (Pennine) was formed to receive a whole stock transfer from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, which took place in March 2001. Pennine currently has about 12,000 units, all located within Calderdale. Currently there are about 10,500 general needs units, 1,200 supported sheltered units and 170 leased units.

As an 'early years' stock transfer company, Pennine's strategic objectives are concerned with meeting its promises to tenants, maintaining its customer focus and delivering the improvement of its stock..

Pennine is very active in the wider community of Calderdale. Examples include the successful construction skills apprenticeship programme for young people. 'More Than Bricks and Mortar'. Here, Pennine is working with the construction companies with whom it is partnering. Pennine is also receiving grant from the Department of Trade and Industry's Phoenix Development Fund to support the creation of small social enterprises; and is a partner in the Ovenden Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder, Halifax. Pennine also sponsors an annual jobs fair in Halifax. Smaller initiatives promote positive brand image, such as sponsorship of the local rugby team, involvement with local schools, and sponsoring the training and upkeep of a police dog.

Pennine provides services to other organisations. Housing Director services have been provided under a two year contract to another local authority, and expertise in the areas of tenant participation and anti-social behaviour has been provided to others on a consultancy basis.

Demand for stock remains generally healthy, though there are pockets of low demand, and some stock has been demolished. The refurbishment programme is being supported by a development programme which is adding two extra care schemes as well as replacement family housing and larger family houses.

The ethnic minority population of Calderdale is around 7%, but with a particular concentration of settlement in West Central Halifax. Historically, local authority stock has not been attractive to the ethnic minority population and, despite innovative joint work with Nashayman, this largely remains true today.