



## **PRESS RELEASE**

28 July 2008

### **Novas Scarman shortlisted for Neighbourhood Award**

The Novas Scarman Group has been shortlisted in the Diversity and Race category of the Neighbourhood Awards 2008, run by the National Housing Federation.

The nomination is based on the Contemporary Urban Centre North West, and the full nomination documents can be found on the awards website [www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk).

The awards celebrate the work that comes from housing associations' commitments to customers, neighbourhoods and excellence. These awards are unique and highly respected because they are judged by tenants from across the country. The awards are highly respected in the housing sector and unique because they are judged by tenants.

Winners will be announced at the a ceremony on 18 September 2008 at the National Housing Federation annual conference in Birmingham.

The CUC Northwest is an innovative regeneration project that provides a unique platform for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, and other excluded groups, to develop economic, social and cultural empowerment. Opened in February 2008, it significantly contributes to Liverpool as well as currently the Capital of Culture, providing volunteer, work opportunities and social enterprise development particularly for marginalised groups.

Michael Wake, Co Group Chief Executive/Founder of the novas Scarman Group, says,

'Being shortlisted for the Neighbourhood Awards is a testament to the fantastic work that is taking place at the Contemporary Urban Centre Northwest. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of all the team who have worked hard to make the CUC such a success since its opening earlier this year.'

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITOR**

The **Novas Scarman Group** is major social justice charity tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

Novas Scarman works at a local level to empower people and communities by creating opportunities for positive change through personalised support and development, pathways into work and learning, inclusive local decision making and change programmes, and releasing enterprise and cultural expression.

We bring communities together by enabling a voice for those often not heard or marginalised, to be at the heart of our communities, and we aim to become one of the world's most influential and effective catalysts for social justice, inclusion and diversity.

Three organisations – Novas Group, PATH and Scarman Trust – merged in December 2007 to create the Novas Scarman Group, representing a joining together of shared values in order to facilitate social justice and inclusion, diversity and cohesion.

The organisation has four core activities:

- Community support services serving the most disadvantaged communities
- Clusters of social enterprises based in Contemporary Urban Centres
- Nation-wide programmes of learning and inclusive pathways to work
- Campaigning and policy advocacy work – “connecting the streets with the corridors of power”

In October 2007 Maria Donoghue-Mills, Co-Group Chief Executive/Founder of the Novas Scarman Group, was appointed as a Social Enterprise Ambassador as a key part of the Government's Social Enterprise Action Plan, which was launched last year by then Chancellor Gordon Brown. The programme is funded by the Cabinet Office and led by the Social Enterprise Coalition.

**About the three organisations**

The Novas Group was Charity of the Year in 2007 and combines support for vulnerable individuals with major programmes of social enterprise development

The Scarman Trust pioneered support for grassroots social entrepreneurs and recently helped to develop proposals for a new Social Investment Bank – backed by both Gordon Brown and David Cameron

PATH supports Black and Minority Ethnic entrants to professions and has recently been given both the RTPI and Civil Service Diversity Award