



Left to right: Sefton Carers Chief Executive Liz Williams, Sefton Council's Mo Kundi, Cosmopolitan Housing Association's Project Manager Karen Hunter and Southport Partnership project manager Mark Catherall.

New era for Scarisbrick property as apartments are completed

Work has completed on a new development of 19 apartments for rent in Southport's conservation area close to the town's popular promenade.

The building, on Scarisbrick Avenue, dates back to the early 1900's and has undergone an extensive refurbishment programme whilst retaining the building's impressive façade. Internal original features including sash windows, ornate covings and exposed internal chimney stacks have been repaired and restored. The building has also achieved Secure by Design and Eco Homes Very Good accreditation with the provision of low energy lighting, internal cycle storage and recycling waste disposal.

The property fell into disrepair when the previous developer experienced financial difficulties. Sefton Council was keen to see the blighted property completed and approached Cosmopolitan Housing Association in June 2009 to acquire the property.

The painstaking 12 month refurbishment and conversion project has cost in the region of £2 million and has been supported by grants from the Homes and Communities Agency and Lottery Funding which was acquired by Sefton Council to assist in the preservation of the buildings original features, with the remainder of the funding being met by Cosmopolitan.

Residents began moving into their new homes this month April 2011. The newly refurbished building now comprises 19 one and two bedroom apartments for rent

on the upper three floors, with Sefton Council taking a long lease on the ground floor commercial space to provide support services from Sefton Carers.

The refurbishment was carried out by Barnes Construction.

Speaking on site, Cosmopolitan project manager Karen Hunter, said: "Cosmopolitan is delighted to be involved in the process of restoring this building to its former glory, and we remain committed to working with developers to provide good quality accommodation in this area. The apartments are finished to a very high standard and will provide much needed accommodation in Southport'