

## Appendix M Carpenters Connect – Technical Details

*This information was supplied by Richard Stubbs, Newham.net Ltd Unit 1, St. Luke's Centre, 85 Tarling Road, London, E16 1HN Tel +44 20 7366 6330 Fax +44 20 7366 6331 [Emailrichard.stubbs@newham.net](mailto:Emailrichard.stubbs@newham.net) <http://www.newham.net>*

### **Description of the service**

All residents are given a set top box, remote control, radio keyboard with built in mouse and manual (see attached). The project organises installation so as to ensure the set top box works alongside existing a/v equipment and also gives residents a brief introduction to the services available. Residents can choose to buy a printer to plug into the set top box, which will enable them to use it to print information.

The services provided are as follows: -

#### *1. A video interface*

The service allows users to select options using the remote to enter the number of their choice or the arrow keys to highlight options. Pressing the info button at any point brings up a video that instructs the user on what to do. Option 1. on the menu is an interactive video based training course on using the system at a basic level.

#### *2. Home to Home*

This is the part of the service that is focussed entirely on the estate and it is intended that it should be run as a community enterprise managed by residents. It includes videos produced by and for residents and access to an estate web site that provides local information, TV friendly links, supports text discussion, quizzes and voting. It is in the process of being developed so as to allow residents to create their own personal web sites via the TV

#### *3. Internet & eMail*

Provides filtered Internet access and a web based eMail service. The latter has been tailored to work on TV however it can be accessed from anywhere using a PC.

#### *4. Videos*

A selection of free videos and documentaries. All normal video controls are operative. It is hoped to be able to expand this service so as to include commercial videos.

#### *5. Newham Life*

This feature the "Start Here" information service which provides 1000s of pages of information and advice tailored to the local area. The Start Here system was designed for kiosks so is very simple to use on a TV. This section also includes links to relevant local web sites.

#### *6. Games*

Basic PC games such as the ever popular Solitaire along with multiplayer video games such as Quake.

#### *7. Learning*

Plato educational software and Microsoft Encarta

#### *8. My Computer*

This option makes the TV behave in a manner equivalent to a PC with a VGA monitor. All the normal MS Office programmes are available. As this is a "sign in" option it is possible for residents to opt for unfiltered Internet access via Internet Explorer.

#### *9. Free to Air TV*

Access to free to air channels.

### **How it works**

All services run over IP (Internet Protocol). There is a 1GB fibre core network linking all the main buildings and 10/100mbs CAT5e links into the homes. The set top boxes are PACE DSL4000s and the video server is provided by nCube. The PC on the TV service is implemented using Citrix, the Video games use G-Cluster technology and the "free to air" service uses a solution developed for the project.

The overall system is managed by Newham.net Ltd. Resident content development and the Home 2 Home service has been facilitated by the The Media Trust. Newham Council owns the infrastructure. The many project partners have given a great deal of support; in particular the Carpenters Road Tenant Management Organisation has given free space, worker time and great enthusiasm. The DfES and the Tomorrow's City SRB funded the project.