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News Release

The Co-operative Bank opens new Southampton corporate banking centre

The Co-operative Bank has opened a new Corporate Banking Centre in Southampton as part of an £18m nationwide expansion programme which will see the number of the Bank's Corporate Banking Centres double over the next two years.

The new Southampton team has over 50 years combined commercial banking experience and a wealth of contacts in both the local professional and business communities.

Louise Maidment, Senior Corporate Adviser, previously worked at Barclay's Bank for 20 years and was based mainly in Southampton; Sam Mitchell, Corporate Adviser, worked at NatWest for seven years in the Southampton area; and Richard Knight, Senior Corporate Manager worked with HSBC for 25 years based mainly in London, and a further three years with Clydesdale in Southampton.

Based at Imperial House on Kings Park Road in the business district of Southampton, the new centre will provide tailored funding solutions for SMEs across all business sectors. The team will support both existing and new corporate customers seeking finance for acquisition, business asset purchase or re-finance and working capital.

Senior Corporate Manager Richard Knight said: "Although the new team has joined from different banks, we have already built strong working relationships which have enabled us to hit the ground running.

The financial services group which includes

The **co-operative**
bank

The **co-operative**
insurance

The **co-operative**
investments



“The Co-operative Bank is an extremely strong, trusted brand, especially across the North of England, so the opportunity to set up a new Corporate Banking Centre in Southampton it was too good to miss.

“The investment in this new Corporate Banking Centre demonstrates the Bank’s continued confidence and sends out a positive message to potential and existing customers.”

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Photo caption:

Notes to editors:

- ISDN facilities are available for broadcast media interviews.

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