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News Release

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK OPENS SOUTH MANCHESTER CORPORATE BANKING CENTRE

The Co-operative Bank has opened a new Corporate Banking Centre in Altrincham 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.

Recent recruits Ian Heesom, Mike Chatten and Gareth Daniel are not strangers to each other; all three worked together at Yorkshire Bank in South Manchester and have moved across to The Co-operative Bank as a team.

The team of four has a combined 60 years commercial banking experience between them and a wealth of contacts in both the local professional and business communities.

Senior Corporate Manager Mike Chatten said: "We have all worked together in previous roles and already have a strong working relationship which has enabled us to hit the ground running here. When the chance arose to set up a new Corporate Banking Centre for a major North West player it was too good an opportunity to turn down."

Senior Business Development Manager, Ian Heesom continued: "The Co-operative Bank is an extremely strong, trusted brand – especially across the North West. The investment made in this new Corporate Banking Centre demonstrates the Bank's continued confidence in the region and sends out a clear message to customers and potential new customers about our commitment at a time of uncertainty in the wider market place."

Based at Station House on Stamford New Road, 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.

Ends

Photo caption: (LtoR) Mike Chatten, Senior Corporate Manager; Phil Legg, Business Transformation Project Co-ordinator; Ian Heesom Senior Business Development Manager and Gareth Daniel, Corporate Manager

Notes to editors:

- ISDN facilities are available for broadcast media interviews.

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