

# Co-operative Financial Services



*The* COOPERATIVE BANK



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12<sup>th</sup> October 2007

## News Release

### **The Co-operative Bank opens Oxford Corporate Banking Centre**

The Co-operative Bank has opened a new Corporate Banking Centre in Oxford as part of its nationwide expansion programme.

Situated in the city's new business park, Oxford Office Village, the Centre will build upon existing corporate relationships and also develop new customers across the full range of business sectors.

Business Development Manager, Steve Bateman will be heading up the new team of six. Steve is well known in Oxford and brings over 20 years of corporate banking experience to the Bank.

The Corporate Banking Centre will provide banking services for SMEs and MEs within the mid corporate market including acquisitions, refinancing and property transactions. The business development managers will focus on generating new to Bank corporate businesses with turnovers of between £1m and £50m.

The opening of the Oxford Centre forms part of an £18m investment by The Co-operative Bank, which will see the number of Corporate Banking Centres double to 24 over the next two years.

Steve Bateman said: "The Bank has always had a presence in Oxford, Oxfordshire and the wider region with corporate customers including Oxford City Council. As our presence here continues to strengthen we took the decision to launch of a dedicated Centre as part of our ongoing commitment and investment in the region.

"We firmly believe that The Co-operative Bank is a genuinely refreshing alternative to many other banks and will make a valuable contribution to the region's business community."

**ENDS**

**Photo caption:** The team at The Co-operative Bank's Oxford Corporate Banking Centre

Back row LtoR: Hannah Ward, Neil Kenyon, Richard France and Lesley Ballance

Front row LtoR: Michael Gill and Steve Bateman

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