



Allied Irish Bank (GB) Manchester office expands

31st March 2004

Allied Irish Bank (GB), voted Britain's Best Business Bank for the fifth consecutive time*, is delighted to announce the appointments of John Butterworth as Senior Corporate Business Manager and Chris Harper as Corporate Business Manager. They will be based at the Bank's Manchester Office in Charlotte Street, further strengthening the Bank's business banking team in the north west.

Chris Harper has been appointed manager of the public sector and charities team at the Bank's northern corporate head office. He joined Allied Irish Bank (GB) four years ago having started his career at Natwest and has particular experience in working with public sector and charity organisations, assisting with their financial and banking requirements.

John Butterworth brings almost thirty years banking experience to his new role at Allied Irish Bank (GB). He started his career at the Royal Bank of Scotland, holding a number of senior positions, culminating as Senior Corporate Manager at the Manchester Corporate Office in 1992.

Commenting on his appointment, John Butterworth said: "I am delighted to be joining a business bank which focuses on the business market and provides local decision-making powers where they are really needed. Allied Irish Bank (GB) is a pioneer in giving SMEs the support and service they really need. This is why I decided to join Britain's Best Business Bank."

Chris Harper continued: "I am equally thrilled to join our Manchester Office, particularly during a time of such great expansion for the Bank across Great Britain. I will be using my expertise and relationship-building skills to help existing and future clients working in the public sector and charities to run highly successful organisations."

Commenting on the appointment, Bob Baldock, Head of Corporate Banking, said: "We are delighted to further reinforce our experienced team of corporate business bankers. I'm convinced that 2004 will be an even more successful year for us in the north west. Our award-winning approach to business banking is fuelling high growth levels for us in the region and demonstrates to the business community in the north west that there really is a better option. I look forward to working closely with John and Chris over the coming months - and years".

Their appointments are part of Allied Irish Bank (GB)'s ongoing nation-wide recruitment drive aimed at attracting experienced business bankers to work for Britain's best business bank. Those interested in a career with Allied Irish Bank (GB), who can demonstrate a successful track-record in helping small and medium-sized companies achieve their potential, should contact our Human Resources department or go to the careers section of our website, www.aibgb.co.uk/careers for further details

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Notes to editors

About Allied Irish Bank (GB)

Allied Irish Bank (GB) is a trade mark used under licence by AIB Group (UK) plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks plc***It has five times been voted "Best Business Bank" - 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002 by the Forum of Private Business.** This biennial survey looks at the relationship between businesses and their banks, in particular the quality of their people and their operational efficiency. Allied Irish Bank (GB) performed best in 12 of the 18 categories in the most recent survey. Allied Irish Bank is the founder and sponsor of a respected **Regional Business Barometer**, conducted jointly with and Accountancy Age, the most respected trade magazine for the accounting profession. The **Regional Business Barometer** is one of the largest surveys of its kind looking at the views of accountants on the performance of the regional economies.

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