

For release 18th January:

New SME bank Recognise appoints Director of Strategy.

Recognise Bank has announced the appointment of Anita Maclean to join their executive team. Anita's role will focus on the development and execution of the Bank's future strategy. Anita will also work closely with the CEO, Jason Oakley and Deputy CEO, Bryce Glover on a range of key projects linked to the successful development of the Recognise franchise following the Bank's authorisation at the end of 2020.

Recognise, a subsidiary of AIM listed City of London Group plc, will offer financial services to the UK SME sector and the personal and business savings markets. It has recently commenced lending activities and is employing the latest technology to deliver a fast, efficient and flexible lending platform to business owners and entrepreneurs.

Anita has 28 years of experience in strategic leadership across Corporate and Commercial, Investment and digital start-up banking sectors. Anita joins from the digital SME-start up Revverbank, where she headed up operations for two years. Prior to her role at Revverbank, Anita was Chief Operating Officer at Santander Corporate and Commercial Bank, where she worked for 12 years.

Her experience also includes 14 years in investment banking in frontline advisory and capital markets roles at BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank and Baring Brothers – as well as entrepreneurial roles – founding , developing and successfully selling a number of SME businesses.

On her appointment, Anita commented, “I am thrilled to join Recognise, a customer-centric challenger bank that genuinely values and recognises SMEs. More than ever, this is a pivotal time for entrepreneurs, and I look forward to developing the bank's strategy alongside a highly experienced team with a clear and unique vision.”

Bryce Glover, Deputy CEO of Recognise said, “We are delighted to welcome Anita to our team, whose extensive sector knowledge and experience will help drive Recognise's future strategy forward. In addition to her banking knowledge, Anita's entrepreneurial mindset—a key component of the bank's DNA—will be a great asset for Recognise.”

Recognise's founding ethos – and the reason for the bank's name – is to focus on the SME community that has been so overlooked and neglected by mainstream banking. The bank offers a relationship-led proposition delivered through dedicated Relationship Managers (RMs) based in London, Midlands, Manchester, and Leeds. The Relationship Managers will meet each client and provide a responsive

and personalised service. Each RM will have deep knowledge of industry sectors and a genuine appreciation for SME challenges, particularly in the current economic climate.

-Ends-

For media enquiries, please contact:

Heather Armstrong heather.armstrong@tavistock.co.uk / 07929-116860

Or email colg@tavistock.co.uk

About Recognise Bank Limited

Recognise Bank was formed to provide financial services to the UK SME sector and the retail and business deposits market. It will target an underserved but growing business customer market offering a relationship-led, digitally enabled proposition.

The bank's efficient technology-driven operating base is expected to allow it to reach profitability within two years of launch. Recognise partners with leading fintech platforms to create a market leading SME service using the best in class technology. Recognise has a strong independent Board and the support of an ambitious executive team with over 280 years' experience of building SME banking portfolios. In 5 years' time it aims to reach 54,000 depositors and 5,100 borrowers. Recognise is a subsidiary of the City of London Group.

About City of London Group

City of London Group is a forward-thinking organisation focused on serving the UK SME market. It is primed for the future, is grounded with traditional values and a strength and depth of expertise.

The Group's expertise covers finance for the business sector, equity release and secured lending such as commercial, SME, bridging and asset finance as well as lending to professional firms.

The Group ensures its services are always delivered with a personal touch, so clients know that they are more than a customer and have a partner that will work with them as they look towards the future.