

**For immediate release: 23 November 2020**

## **New SME bank Recognise opens Manchester hub and appoints team**

Recognise today announces the opening of its Manchester hub and the appointment of James Meigh as Regional Director and Ian Fields as Business Development Manager for Yorkshire and the North West. In addition, Angela Norman has been appointed as Head of Broker Development for the bank. The team will be based in Manchester.

James will be responsible for Recognise in the North of England, providing a range of property and secured lending solutions for SME clients and intermediaries. He began his career with Barclays where he spent ten years in various roles and completed his ACIB professional qualifications. Over three decades, his banking experience also includes establishing Santander's Yorkshire & Humberside Real Estate Finance team (which he led for over 11 years) and running the Leeds office for Nationwide Commercial Property Finance.

Ian Fields has supported SME's in achieving their ambitions through meaningful relationships for 25 years. Starting his career at Allied Irish Bank in Manchester, he moved on to lead the local property team for Yorkshire Bank in Liverpool. Ian also spent 4 years at Aldermore where he assisted in the development of the direct channel for the bank in Manchester and led their real estate and owner-occupied business lending teams for the Northwest. In his role at Recognise, Ian will be working closely with prospective customers to deliver tailored financial solutions as well as engaging with Intermediaries and the wider professional community to build a regional franchise.

Angela Norman has over 29 years' experience within UK banking and fintech, having spent most of her career at Lloyds and RBS. Previous roles include Head of Customer, Product and Propositions at Revverbank, a start-up challenger bank, where she was responsible for the origination strategy. At RBS, she held positions including Chief of Staff to the CEO (RBS England & Wales) and Director of Commercial Banking. Angela has deep experience of the SME market and is passionate about supporting businesses to achieve their ambitions.

**On his appointment, James commented,** *"I am very excited to join Recognise, a completely new venture but with a highly experienced team and a very credible business plan for the regions. I am looking forward to working closely with the business and professional community to build long term relationships and deliver a better all-round experience for customers."*

**Bryce Glover, Deputy CEO of Recognise said,** *"I am delighted to welcome James, Ian and Angela to the team, they bring an incredible amount of experience to our new venture. Having spent a great deal of my career in the North West, I am excited that we are putting down our roots where there is a strong heritage of business entrepreneurship and economic resilience. This is a great opportunity for Recognise to showcase its service proposition and its commitment to relationship banking."*

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 will offer a relationship-

led proposition which will be 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.

**-Ends-**

***For media enquiries, please contact:***

Emma Robinson, Lansons – [emmarobinson@lansons.com](mailto:emmarobinson@lansons.com) / 07903 285 424

Or email [colg@lansons.com](mailto:colg@lansons.com)

**About Recognise Financial Services**

Recognise Financial Services Limited is currently seeking approval to change its name to Recognise Bank following successful authorisation from the Prudential Regulatory Authority

Recognise Financial Services was formed to provide financial services to the UK SME sector and the retail and business deposits market. Its purpose is to serve an SME market that has been starved of a personalised and relationship focused banking service for some time now.

Recognise has partnered with leading fintech platforms to create a market leading SME service using best in class technology that will enable it to deliver on its relationship banking model. Recognise has a strong independent Board to support an ambitious executive team that has had over 250 years' experience of building SME banking portfolios. By 2024 Recognise aims to have 44,000 depositors and 4,500 borrowers on its books. 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.