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LLOYDS TSB Corporate Markets has underlined its commitment to the Sheffield region, and has made four new appointments in the region this year so far, growing its team to three senior relationship managers.

The newly-extended team offer customers access to a range of experts, including financial markets, international trade finance, property funding and asset-based lending.

Dave Mason has been appointed as area director for South Yorkshire with responsibility for the Bank's entire business and commercial market in the area and is supported by property specialist Kenneth Davies in the role of relationship director, looking at property deals in the region.

Mark Gilleard joins Tom Rumboll as senior business development manager for the South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire area with responsibility for developing relationships with new customers in the region and securing the most appropriate corporate services.

Mark will be supported by Rachel Yates who has been appointed as business development manager, concentrating on the sub £2m market, specifically growing owner-managed businesses.



▲ **Lloyds:** Dave Mason, centre, with Alastair Watson, Nigel Johnson, Ashley Wild, Tom Rumboll, Lester Mulligan

This takes the Sheffield business development team to three. Tom Rumboll said: "We are growing our team in Sheffield to meet demand for the bank's services in the area."

"I am delighted with these appointments and the depth of

experience Ken and Mark bring to their respective markets within the South Yorkshire region."

Rumboll sees Sheffield as a hub for South Yorkshire and is optimistic for the region and the SME market.

He said: "There are many signs that the area is emerging from its past dominance of heavy industry."

"The cranes on the skyline are evidence that the property sector is booming."

"While residential property development dominates the city centre, office rentals are nevertheless moving upwards and commercial property of all types is in demand for rental and business purchase."

"Whilst we in the north have some way to go to close the gap on other leading areas, in absolute measures, this in turn attracts outside investors."

"An increasing confidence in the business community will also fuel this, which will then lead to greater economic prosperity for owners and employment."

Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets provides comprehensive financial services to businesses with turnovers in excess of £2million.

Dedicated relationship managers work closely with businesses.

Core banking services are supported with flexible funding packages and investment solutions, designed to help maximise profitability and minimise risks.

Chris Sellars, head of corporate finance at independent chartered accountants Hart Shaw, points to continued and growing confidence in Sheffield's professional and corporate community

THERE is currently an air of positivity around the Hart Shaw offices which doesn't sit too comfortably with this particular dour Yorkshireman.

With the only thing to complain about being the quickly-approaching deadlines and the constantly busy diary, I almost broke into a smile last week. Joking aside, the first five months of 2007 have been very buoyant.

It has seen a number of new appointments in our assurance business, which includes increasingly more complex assignments and exciting projects for both our clients and Hart Shaw.

On the mergers and acquisition side of the business (Corporate Finance) we have seen unprecedented levels of productivity and a broad range of assignments in relation to sector and size.

These include due diligence in relation to a £40 million-plus transaction in the leisure sector, a £5 million-plus management buyout in the professional service sector and a disposal in the engineering sector with a value of in excess of £30 million.

As a full-service office we pride ourselves on supporting all our clients in their transaction work whatever the size, and over the last few months we have also completed a range of smaller deals including a management buy-in the security sector and the disposal of a professional services business.

I hope that at Hart Shaw we are winning our fair share of

Buoyant market is something to smile about for Sheffield

the opportunities in the transaction market and on that basis I am sure the levels of our activity currently reflect a buoyant market for the Sheffield professional community.

This is on the back of a growing confidence in the region, with strong performances across a number of sectors including engineering, aerospace, petrochemical, architecture and construction. This growing confidence is also a testament to the quality, experience and knowledge of a number of Sheffield based businesses.

We have locally a banking sector which is responding very positively and proactively to the current levels of activity in the transaction market and I am sure that this will enable the professional services involved in the corporate transaction market to further strengthen their teams and continue to develop this area of the professional offering in Sheffield.

So from Hart Shaw, and I am sure the professional community of Sheffield generally, it's a positive message after the first five months of 2007 with a very strong outlook for the balance of the year to come.

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