

# Dynamic hub of legal excellence

EVIDENCE of Sheffield's economic rebirth has been there for all to see for some time but 2006 has witnessed the most intense transformation of the city skyline to date.

The legal community is partly responsible for that transformation, creating a major demand for new office accommodation. And there is much more construction to come, with Nabarro's own client Hammerson driving the development of the New Retail Quarter.

The expertise of Sheffield's legal community continues to play an important role in assisting both public and private sector organisations to deliver effective regeneration.

For example, in addition to its work for Hammerson, Nabarro's is involved in two other major projects, advising the owners of Sheffield Business Park and the Advanced Manufacturing Park – both transforming former opencast sites.

As the city continues to expand, so does the work of a thriving legal sector led by the 'Big Three' – our-

*Sheffield's legal sector has shared in the success of one of the country's fastest-growing economies in 2006. The city no longer relies on traditional industry for its fortunes – and that economic diversity is reflected in the work of its law firms, says Nabarro Nathanson commercial property partner Niall Logan*



selves, DLA Piper and Irwin Mitchell – engaged in a widening range of activity.

The city is now rightly regarded as a dynamic centre of legal excellence, appealing to a growing number of lawyers attracted by the prospect of

challenging work in enviable surroundings.

At Nabarro's, our Sheffield lawyers work closely with colleagues in the London and Brussels offices to serve national and international corporate, governmental, institutional

and public sector clients. The office is the headquarters of Nabarro's environment department and is a leading provider of expertise in areas such as corporate law, litigation, planning and construction, employment and pensions, PFI and IT.

The scale and diversity of our work, combined with the attractions of the city, has drawn top quality recruits from traditional legal centres – two of the partners to arrived in 2006 moved from leading London firms.

If Sheffield's legal sector is to continue to flourish, it must continue to attract – and retain – such high-calibre recruits.

Our new arrivals tell us that they are impressed not just by the quality of work on offer but the supportive environment of the office and the firm's commitment to personal development.

Nabarro Nathanson recently became the first firm in Sheffield to gain Investors in People re-accreditation enhanced by Profile certification, which requires significantly more demanding criteria to be met.

With two successful universities, a vibrant centre and beautiful surroundings, Sheffield should have a head start when it comes to recruitment. But employers must be serious about investing in their staff to ensure that the city remains a sought-after professional destination.

## Offering expert advice on local issues

- New Retail Quarter
- Sheffield Business Park
- Proposed Smithy Wood Business Park
- Advanced Manufacturing Park
- Sheffield Schools
- Inner Ring Road

To find out more about Nabarro Nathanson's services please call Fiona Curnow on +44 (0)114 279 4042

## Dawn of a new era of enterprise

SOUTH Yorkshire is heading towards an interesting and exciting period of change as far as business support is concerned. The area has benefited greatly from its Objective 1 status, but this status is coming to an end in 2008 and South Yorkshire should be aware that the support available to businesses in the past will change emphasis.

The latest statistics show that Objective 1 has committed over £700million from Europe to projects in South Yorkshire, which have helped to create 20,000 jobs.

Of course, Objective 1 is not the only source of funding for business support in South Yorkshire. We deliver a number of programmes for Yorkshire Forward and the DTI, and the support we have received from the EU will not dry up overnight. A 'Phasing In' period will be introduced next year to help ease the transition, but the pot of money available will be reduced and this will be reflected in the funding that is available to South Yorkshire businesses.

Government at all levels has been mindful of this change and a great deal of consultation has been going on over the last 12 months as to how best to focus business support in South Yorkshire during this period of transition.

And the message is clear – enterprise, innovation and competitiveness are the key areas. Guidance from Europe, the national government and the Yorkshire region all points towards enterprise being the best way to sustain and grow a healthy economy.

It is therefore the job of business support agencies in South Yorkshire to continue to encourage a culture of enterprise and to focus support and funding in that direction. Business Link South Yorkshire already commits 30% of resources towards business start-ups and enterprise, and in the last 12 months has helped more than 1,000 businesses to set up. We will be spearheading the future changes and are working hard to



**By JULIE READMAN**  
Managing Director,  
Business Link South Yorkshire

create a highly targeted, highly efficient and highly effective support network.

This is on a strategic level, so what will change for the businesses that access our support? Very little on the face of it – Business Link South Yorkshire will retain its position as the first place to go for business support. However, the programmes we deliver will be more straightforward, more rationalised and more efficient, with a definite focus on helping those businesses that can prove their commitment to enterprise, competitiveness and innovation.

The result of this shift in emphasis will be a stronger economy in South Yorkshire. The solid base that we now enjoy, in part thanks to Objective 1, is an excellent position from which to grow, and there are exciting times ahead for enterprising businesses in this area.

Business Link South Yorkshire and the network of business support agencies we work with are steadily moving towards our aim of making South Yorkshire the best place in the UK to start and grow a business. For more information call 0800 073 74 74 or visit [www.businessguidance.co.uk](http://www.businessguidance.co.uk)

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