

DRAFT – 19/02/09



MULTIMILLION POUND EXPANSION FOR LOCAL STORES

A **Kinross**-based business is embarking upon a growth and recruitment plan, thanks to support from Clydesdale Bank.

David Sands, the award winning independent convenience store chain, will add two more stores to its existing portfolio of 26, after securing funding in excess of £2m from Clydesdale's Fife and West Lothian Financial Solutions Centre (FSC).

Employing more than 600 members of staff across Fife and Perth & Kinross, David Sands was established in 1812 and is now in its 5th family generation of ownership.

The company has recently opened its 26th branch at Lauder Road, Kirkcaldy and has a further two more stores opening in the coming months in Markinch and Dunfermline.

“Over the years David Sands has grown rapidly and with Clydesdale's support we will continue to diversify and expand in order to overcome market challenges,” said Chief Executive David Sands, who **joined the family business in 1989**.

“The fit between David Sands – a traditional, well-placed company, and Clydesdale – a bank which prides itself on its traditional banking model, was obvious, and I look forward to planning the future of the company with the team in our local FSC,

More...

Andrew McGeorge, business partner at the Fife and West Lothian FSC added:

“David Sands is a successful trading business, which we are happy to be associated with. These expansion plans will help David Sands to continue with its growth strategy, and bring more employment opportunities to the region.

“These may be tough times on the high street but David Sands knows its products and has built up a loyal customer following. I’m confident that its new store openings will be a tremendous success” concluded Mr. McGeorge.

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Notes for editors:

The Fife and West Lothian Clydesdale Financial Solutions Centre is based at Largo House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline, KY11 8PE.

FSCs’ focus on the communities in which they operate expands to the approach they take towards customer relationships. Each of the UK-wide network of 79 business banking Financial Solutions Centres (FSC) offers customers a tailored range of business banking services under one roof. A team of specialist partners, each with considerable local experience, work together to provide members with end-to-end solutions for their business banking needs. Customers benefit from in-depth expertise and fast, local decision-making from their own dedicated Relationship Partner – a professional who takes the time to get to know their business and understand their needs.

Clydesdale Bank:

Clydesdale Bank is part of the National Australia Group. Clydesdale Bank was established in 1838 in Glasgow and has a proud history of innovation and support for Scottish industry and communities. With over 150 retail branches and a network of Financial Solutions Centres, Clydesdale is one of Scotland's largest banks. The Bank is currently expanding its operations into the South of England with its innovative Financial Solutions Centres, offering customers a highly integrated business and private banking service.

Financial Solutions Centres:

Clydesdale Bank Financial Solutions Centres (FSC) offer Members a tailored range of business and private banking services under one roof. A team of specialist partners, each with considerable local experience, work together to provide Members with end to end solutions for their business and private banking needs. In addition to banking services, the FSCs also operate as a hub for local business, with a range of networking opportunities and meeting facilities available as a benefit of membership.