Lloyds Banking Group and University of Leeds launch new partnership to drive innovation and growth across Yorkshire

- Strategic partnership connects university research with Yorkshire businesses, investors and civic leaders.
- First £400,000 project will apply academic expertise to climate, flood and risk modelling.
- Broader programme aims to translate pioneering research into new employment pathways, regional growth and entrepreneurship.

Lloyds Banking Group and the University of Leeds have launched a major strategic partnership designed to turn research and innovation into new commercial opportunities, skilled jobs and economic growth across Yorkshire and the surrounding regions.

The partnership will bring together the university's research expertise and the Group's relationships with businesses and investors, creating a stronger route from ideas developed on campus to practical applications across the regional economy.

Its first initiative will be a new £400,000 research agreement and Knowledge Transfer Partnership to develop pioneering climate, flood and risk modelling to better predict and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Lloyds Banking Group and the University will also collaborate on talent and employability programmes and explore further initiatives, including the proposed Leeds Financial Services Innovation Exchange, backed by UK Research and Innovation through the UK Government's Local Innovation Partnerships Fund.

The partnership is focused on three areas:

- **Turning research into commercial impact:** connecting academic expertise with entrepreneurs, SMEs and larger businesses across the region to support innovation and growth.
- **Building Yorkshire's future workforce:** developing internships, graduate pathways and industry placements, alongside collaboration on curriculum design and financial education.
- **Strengthening the regional economy:** bringing together businesses, investors, civic institutions and academics in areas where Yorkshire has established strengths, including financial services, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing.

Professor Shearer West, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Leeds, said: "As a university deeply rooted in our city and region, we are committed to using our knowledge, expertise and partnerships to make a positive difference to people's lives.

"Working with Lloyds Banking Group will strengthen our ability to connect outstanding research with the needs of businesses and communities, helping to create opportunities, drive innovation and support sustainable economic growth.

"This partnership demonstrates what can be achieved when universities and major employers work together with a shared ambition for the prosperity of our region."

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, said: "When our universities, businesses and local leaders come together around a shared ambition, we can turn innovation into opportunity for people across West Yorkshire.

"The Northern Square Mile is already home to the UK's largest financial and professional services sector outside of London, including global firms, the Bank of England, and several world-class universities.

"This new partnership is a brilliant example of industry and academia working together to create jobs and growth, as well as a greener and more resilient region in the face of climate change."

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Mark Burton, Managing Director, Mid Markets, Commercial Banking at Lloyds said: "The UK's universities are producing world-class research, and there is a fantastic opportunity to turn even more of that innovation into new businesses, new industries and high-value jobs across our regions. The key is creating lasting partnerships between universities, businesses, investors and local leaders that can help great ideas grow.

"That kind of collaboration works best when everyone is focused on a shared ambition and prepared to invest in the relationship for the long term, creating the trust and connections that help research develop into commercially and socially valuable opportunities.

"That's the approach behind our partnership with the University of Leeds, combining research collaboration with talent development and bringing regional partners together. Done well, partnerships like this can create benefits that reach far beyond the university itself, strengthening skills, supply chains and economic growth across the region."

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to more than 8,500 Lloyds Banking Group colleagues. In West Yorkshire alone, the bank serves 988,000 personal customers and 26,000 business customers.

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Notes to Editors

Photo attached, names left to right:
Left: Kate Manku, Managing Director, Head of Higher Education and Charities, Lloyds
Second from left: Mark Burton, Managing Director, Mid Markets, Commercial Banking, Lloyds
Third from left: Professor Shearer West, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Leeds
Fourth from left: Sir Robin Budenberg CBE, Chair, Lloyds Banking Group
Fifth from left: Jane Madeley, Chief Financial Officer at the University of Leeds
Far right: Professor Nick Plant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation at the University of Leeds

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About Lloyds Banking Group

- Lloyds Banking Group is a leading UK based financial services group providing a wide range of banking and financial services, focused on personal and commercial customers.
- As part of the Group, Lloyds provides expert financial support and guidance to the households, businesses and communities of Britain.
- We help businesses across the regions and nations of the UK, and across all different sectors and sizes, giving them the funding and support they need to grow both at home and abroad.

Our support for businesses

- Lloyds has relationships with more than 70% of UK higher education institutions.
- We're proud to support almost one million UK businesses with leading digital and relationship banking services, as they start up, grow and thrive.
- In 2026, we'll make over £35 billion of new finance available to companies operating and investing in the UK – supporting jobs, growth and prosperity for our communities. And of this, £9.5 billion will be dedicated to SMEs.
- Through a network of relationship teams based across the UK, as well as internationally, we deliver a mix of local understanding and global expertise necessary to provide long-term support to our clients to help them fulfil their growth aspirations.
- We offer a broad range of finance beyond term lending, spanning import and export trade finance, structured and asset finance, securitisation facilities and capital market funding.

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- Our product specialists provide bespoke financial services and solutions, including tailored cash management, international trade, treasury and risk management services.
- To see the latest factsheet setting out how we support UK businesses please visit: Supporting British businesses - Lloyds Banking Group plc

University of Leeds

The University of Leeds is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, with more than 37,000 students from about 140 different countries. We are renowned globally for the quality of our teaching and research.

We are a values-driven university, and we harness our expertise in research and education to help shape a better future for humanity, working through collaboration to tackle inequalities, achieve societal impact and drive change.

The University is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities, and is a major partner in the Alan Turing, Rosalind Franklin and Royce Institutes.

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