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## **NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY JOB CREATION CONTINUES AFTER MAJOR NEW CONTRACT WIN**

*- Further Employment Opportunities For Threatened Northern Rock Staff -*

Newcastle Building Society is set to create at least another 50 new jobs in the region after winning a five-year, multi-million pound contract from a leading national financial services firm.

The Society is expecting significant numbers of applications for the new posts from Northern Rock staff facing the threat of redundancy, as it continues to provide growing numbers of new employment opportunities in the region's financial services sector.

In September last year, Newcastle Building Society pledged to create 500 new jobs over a five-year period. This latest contract win puts it well ahead of schedule, increasing the 116 posts already filled by another 50. There are also around 50 further vacancies across other areas of the business.

The new contract awarded to the Society by the firm, the name of which is not yet being revealed for commercial reasons, will involve developing its savings offering and the launch of a new savings account brand.

Newcastle Building Society, through its outsourced services business, Newcastle Strategic Solutions, will provide an internet with telephone support 'white labelled' savings platform, as well as an additional administration and support function for the new account brand. It will also be responsible for all customer correspondence, marketing and sales of the client's direct investment products.

The new account is scheduled to go live in November this year, and the Society is now actively looking to add at least 50 new staff to its Newcastle Strategic Solutions team to service it, who will be based in its new offices at Cobalt Business Park in North Tyneside.

Colin Seccombe, Newcastle Building Society chief executive, said: "The Strategic Solutions team continues to go from strength to strength, alongside our more traditional member-focussed business, and it is helping us fulfil the challenging expansion and job creation targets we set ourselves last year.

"Being able to create new employment opportunities in the region's financial service sector in the current economic climate shows the quality of the service we provide, and it is a trend that we believe offers a lifeline to many well-qualified people working in the industry who are currently facing an uncertain future.

"We have employed around 35 former Northern Rock staff in recent months, but with up to 2,000 people facing redundancy in the relatively near future, it's perhaps surprising that we haven't received many more than the 195 applications that have come to us from Rock employees.

"We feel that there will be many more Rock staff who will be looking for more certainty in their employment situation and we would encourage them to speak to us about the sort of career opportunities for which we are now recruiting."

Ian Kilmartin, Third Party Service Executive at Newcastle Building Society, adds: "We are extremely pleased to add another major financial services industry name to a list of partners which includes some of the biggest in the sector. This contract award is clear recognition of both the quality of the service that the Newcastle Strategic Solutions team provide and our growing reputation for innovation and effectiveness.

"The positions we're now recruiting for will be a mixture of telephone and administrative customer service roles, as well as team leaders, team managers and a departmental head. Further IT, marketing and finance support staff will also be required, and we're confident that there are strong candidates for all these roles within the north east."

Interested applicants can email the Society at [recruitment@newcastle.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@newcastle.co.uk).

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