

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR COUNTY DURHAM FOUNDATION

County Durham Foundation has a new Chairman and Chief Executive. Local businessman Mark I'Anson succeeds Bernard Robinson OBE as Chairman and Alison Broom, a former Ministerial adviser, has been appointed as its new Chief Executive - replacing Gillian Stacey who has led the organisation for 11 years.

The Foundation manages philanthropic funds for individuals and companies and distributes grants to good causes in County Durham and Darlington on their behalf. £1.9m was given out in grants last year to 767 groups and individuals in the region.

Mark I'Anson, built his business, Integrated Micro Products plc. in Consett, County Durham and was a fund holder with the Foundation prior to joining its Board in 1999. He becomes Chairman as Bernard Robinson retires after six successful years in the role.

Mark I'Anson said:

"I originally set up a fund with County Durham Foundation because I wanted to give something back to the Derwentside community which had been so supportive of my business. The Foundation has done a magnificent job of identifying and channelling funds to groups in need of help. I don't believe there is any other way in which an individual or company could so effectively target funds to make an equivalent impact.

"I was so impressed with the work of County Durham Foundation I decided to get more involved. Gillian Stacey has done a superb job as Chief Executive over the last 11 years and I'm delighted that we have been able to attract such an outstanding candidate as Alison Broom to carry on the good work for the Foundation."

Alison Broom, originally from Billingham, went to Newcastle Polytechnic and worked for Newcastle City Council's Economic Development Unit before moving to London to pursue a career in public affairs. She takes over as Chief Executive of County Durham Foundation on 22nd May.

"I wanted to return to my roots and do something that would make a difference in my native North East. I'm thrilled to have been chosen to lead such a well-respected and valued organisation and I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead.

"I've spent the last few weeks out and about, meeting some of the groups and individuals who've received grants from our fund holders through the Foundation. I've found it moving and inspiring seeing the huge difference fund holders' generosity is making to people's lives in County Durham and Darlington. Our aim is to increase the funds to enable us to help even more people - so anyone reading this who might be interested in local giving in County Durham and Darlington, please give me a call!"

County Durham Foundation can be contacted on 0191 383 0055 or have a look at the website for more information: www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk

_____ Ends _____

21st May 2008

Contact: Alison Broom: 0191 383 0055

Notes to Editors: Biographies and photographs of Mark I'Anson and Alison Broom attached.

Bernard Robinson OBE DL , former North East Business Man of the Year and retired Executive Chairman of TKA Tallent Chassis, was Chairman of County Durham Foundation from October 2002 to March 2008.

Mark I'Anson

- Local businessman with involvements across a range of economic development activities.
- Sold his own NASDAQ listed company, IMP.
- Chairman/Director of 6 local SMEs and is chairman of NEL, the North-East's leading regional venture capital firm.
- On the steering committee of both Newcastle Science City and the Northern Way
- Visiting Professor and member of Council at Newcastle University. Chairman of Newcastle University Ideas Bank Ltd.
- Trustee or Director of three major local charities.
- Personal interests Include racing cars, skiing and sailing (all as fast as possible!); and is a champion leek grower.

Alison Broom – Career Highlights

- 2008 – Chief Executive, County Durham Foundation (22nd May)
- 2005 – Regional Coordinator, University of Sussex
- 2003 – Executive Coach (self-employed) – and world traveller!
- 2001 – Director of Corporate Affairs, MyTravel Group plc
- 1997 – International Government Relations Adviser, Kerr McGee Oil (UK) plc
- 1991 – Special Adviser to Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence (96/7), Employment (95/6), Minister for Local Government (91/2).
- 1986 – Public Affairs Consultant, Rowland Public Affairs (part of the Saatchi Group), London
- 1982 – Economic Development Unit, Newcastle City Council