

**BLME DECREASES MINIMUM DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT TO £25,000 TO CATER FOR SAVERS
LOOKING FOR COMPETITIVE RATES**

London, 12 March 2012 – Bank of London and The Middle East (“BLME”), has today announced that it has decreased the minimum investment amount required to open a Premier Deposit Account (“PDA”) from £50,000 to £25,000.

The decision came from the increasing interest BLME has seen from customers in its PDA, bolstered by savers who are looking to diversify their savings away from the large high street banks in order to take full advantage of the Financial Service Compensation Scheme deposit guarantee.

BLME’s PDA provides competitive returns on customer’s savings with BLME compared with other UK high street institutions’ deposit products. BLME pay the profit upon maturity of the original agreement or on the anniversary of the investment – based on which comes first.

Humphrey Percy, CEO of BLME, said:

“Since its launch in 2010 we have seen an increasing interest from savers looking to diversify their savings and deposit accounts away from large high street banks. I am particularly proud to note an increasing number of personal recommendations we get from our customers who are very satisfied with our rates as well as the Personal, knowledgeable and efficient service they receive.

In addition to Sharia’a values of transparency and ethical business practice, the PDA also boasts competitive rates for customers, as seen in the chart below.

| Term | £25,000 + Gross/Net | £50,000 + Gross | £100,000 + Gross | £500,000 + Gross |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Year | 3.35 / 2.68 | 3.45 | 3.55 | 3.70 |
| 18 Months | 3.50 / 2.80 | 3.75 | 4.00 | 4.15 |
| 2 Years | 3.75 / 3.00 | 4.05 | 4.15 | 4.25 |
| 3 Years | 4.00 / 3.20 | 4.20 | 4.35 | 4.45 |
| 4 Years | 4.20 / 3.36 | 4.50 | 4.55 | 4.70 |
| 5 Years | 4.60 / 3.68 | 4.80 | 4.90 | 5.00 |

The Premier Deposit Account is listed on many of the main price comparison sites such as MoneySupermarket.com, GoCompare, Compare the Market and MoneyFacts and offers favourable rates compared to many of the high street banks. Savers looking to apply should visit BLME’s website – www.blme.com.

END

For more information contact:

James Madsen, +44 (0) 20 7307 5328, james.madsen@capitalmsl.com

Sarah Decottegnie, +44 (0) 20 7225 5197 sarah.decottegnie@capitalmsl.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About BLME

Bank of London and The Middle East plc (“BLME”) is an independent UK wholesale Sharia’a compliant bank based in London. BLME received FSA authorisation in July 2007 and is the largest of its peers in Europe. It is led by a management team that brings together a combination of experienced international bankers and leading experts in Islamic finance.

BLME has three key business areas; Corporate Banking, Treasury and Wealth Management that includes Asset Management and Private Banking.

BLME is dedicated to offering innovative Islamic investment and financing products to businesses and high net-worth individuals in the European, US, Asian and MENA regions. To ensure that BLME’s services and operations are wholly Sharia’a compliant, the Bank has a dedicated Sharia’a Supervisory Board (“SSB”). The SSB’s role is to review contracts and agreements relating to all transactions ensuring that they are consistent with the principles of Islamic jurisprudence.

About Islamic banking

Islamic Finance upholds the principles of fairness, integrity and transparency. The principle of fairness is reflected in the risk and reward-sharing element that forms the foundation of every Islamic financial transaction.

Islamic finance aims to create business activities that generate a fair and equitable profit from transactions that are backed by real assets. This method of financing avoids speculation, short selling and excessive credit creation whilst encouraging sound risk management procedures.

Islamic banking has a robust system of risk management and self-regulation to ensure that each transaction is transparent and that the appropriate due diligence and higher standards of disclosure required are observed. To ensure compliance with these requirements each transaction and agreement is reviewed and approved by a Sharia’a Supervisory Board. This Sharia’a specific regulation and governance is in addition to the conventional regulation that applies to all UK based financial institutions.