

29 January 2020

DEBENHAMS GROUP

Stephen Sunnucks appointed to parent company board

Debenhams Group announces today that Stephen Sunnucks has been appointed as a non-executive director of Celine Jersey Topco Limited, the parent company of the Debenhams Group of operating companies.

Stephen has held leadership positions at a number of household retail names and now acts as a Senior Advisor at Alix Partners, the global business advisory firm. From 2005-14, Stephen held various senior executive management roles at Gap Inc., taking the role of Global President from 2012-14. Previously he was CEO of New Look and has held non-executive directorships at Phase Eight (Chairman), Superdry and Helly Hansen (Chairman). Stephen started his career at Marks & Spencer, followed by periods at Sainsbury and Burton Group, where he was MD of Dorothy Perkins.

Mark Gifford, Chairman of Celine Jersey Topco Limited, said:

“Stephen’s reputation in the retail industry is second to none. He has been involved in various turnaround and restructuring situations both in the public and private sphere and has strong apparel credentials. His appointment completes our board, which blends breadth of experience and skills with strategic insight and understanding. Stefaan and I are delighted that the operational team will have access to the support of such a group, as he and his colleagues work to deliver the Debenhams turnaround. With continued access to substantial funding from our investor group, Debenhams is well set to navigate the next phase of its recovery.”

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Enquiries

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Notes to editors

Debenhams is a leading international, department store destination with a proud British heritage which trades out of around 220 stores and is available online in more than 90 countries at www.debenhams.com. It is one of the top five fashion retailers in the UK and has a leading market position in premium beauty both in-store and online. Debenhams gives its customers around the world a unique, differentiated and exclusive mix of own brands, international brands and concessions.

Stephen Sunnucks started his career as a graduate trainee at Marks & Spencer plc in 1979, staying there for 10 years. After a five-year stint at J Sainsbury plc, rising to Director of non-food, he spent a similar period at the Burton Group as MD of Dorothy Perkins. He was headhunted to join the New Look plc board, becoming CEO in 2000 and remaining until its sale to Private Equity. He took the Chairmanship of the Phase 8 and Fat Face businesses and was then recruited to Gap Inc. initially as President, Europe, and eventually as Global President. After leaving Gap in 2014, he took non-exec roles at Superdry and Helly Hansen - where he became Chairman. Since 2018, Stephen has been a Senior Advisor for Alix Partners’ retail practice.