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**WHITBREAD EMPLOYEES TO CASH IN ON
£4 MILLION SHARES WINDFALL**

Over 850 people working for Whitbread, the UK's leading hospitality company whose brands include Premier Travel Inn, David Lloyd Leisure, Costa, Beefeater, and Brewers Fayre, are celebrating thanks to the annual sharesave scheme, which matures this week.

The Whitbread share price, which has seen significant growth over the past few years, was trading at £16.35 (as at 9.30am today) which means that over 850 employees collectively stand to make profits of nearly £4 million should they choose to exercise their options at the current share price.

Depending on whether they participated in the five-year or three year scheme employees stand to potentially quadruple or double their original investment. The five-year options will return nearly four times the option price and three-year option will return more than double the option price.

Claire King, a waitress at the Ham and Blackbird Beefeater in Farnborough is one of the lucky ones who saved the maximum amount of £250 per month for five years and stands to make a staggering £62,700 when she cashes in her options. Delighted with her investment Claire said: this is fantastic news for us and we've already decided how to spend the money. We're going to be sensible and pay off some of the mortgage and do some work on the house but we're also planning the holiday of a lifetime.

Whitbread's Chief Executive, Alan Parker, comments: It's fantastic news that Whitbread people, who work so hard to provide the best possible service to our customers, have this chance to personally share in the company's success. We are really pleased that so many employees took advantage of the sharesave scheme as it's a great and safe way to save.

The scheme allows employees to save between £5 and £250 per month and gives them the right to buy shares at the discounted offer price. In addition, those

employees who choose to join the scheme and save every month receive a tax-free bonus, which can also be used to convert to shares. Under the scheme, they can now choose to exercise their options and sell the shares; exercise their options and retain the shares, or simply get their money back.

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For further press information:

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About Whitbread PLC:

Whitbread PLC is the UK's leading hospitality company, managing market leading businesses in the budget hotels, restaurant and health & fitness sectors, including Premier Travel Inn, Brewers Fayre, Beefeater, Costa and David Lloyd Leisure.

In the financial year to March 2, 2006, Whitbread generated pre-tax, pre-exceptional profit of £181.1m. Founded in 1742, the company is listed on the London Stock Exchange (as WTB.L) and is a member of the FTSE4Good indices.