



Suffolk Life says property remains appealing to SIPP investors

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Suffolk Life, one of the UK's leading providers and administrators of SIPPs, says investing in property through a SIPP remains appealing to plan holders. Suffolk Life is widely recognised as being an industry expert in this complex area.

Purchasing property as part of a SIPP portfolio appeals to many plan holders and investing in property can be particularly beneficial when it is used for business premises by the SIPP plan holder.

Despite widespread bad news on the state of the property market and what has happened in the economy generally, the volume of new property transactions Suffolk Life has handled has remained constant throughout the year and in line with 2007 and 2008 volumes, save for a spike in the run up to 6 April last year due to a change in CGT rules.

There are a number of reasons why. First and foremost, SIPPs are a vehicle for long-term retirement saving and property is a natural long-term investment – it is not an impulse purchase. Typically, investors do not sell every time market sentiment dims. In fact, a fall in prices is seen by many as an excellent buying opportunity for the long-term.

The general fall in the price of commercial property has made it a more affordable investment and has made it possible for SIPPs to acquire property interests which may have previously been unobtainable.

Commenting, Oliver Crichton, Head of Property, Suffolk Life, said: "Many small businesses have seen their access to credit facilities curtailed, which means they have had to watch their cash flow very carefully. For those confident in the future of their business, using the funds available in their SIPPs to buy all or a portion of the premises owned by them or their business, has both helped their business through a transitory phase of difficulty, and offered potential great long-term returns to their SIPPs."

Commenting further, he said: "By its very nature property acquisition and management can be a complicated process but Suffolk Life has specialised in these since its inception. Despite current negative sentiment on the property market we continue to receive a steady volume of enquiries from advisers and their clients looking to invest in property through their SIPP."

Further information is available at www.suffolklife.co.uk

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For further information, please contact:

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About Suffolk Life

Suffolk Life is one of the UK's leading providers and administrators of specialist pension products, primarily Self Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs). It has established over 15,000 self-invested plans and total assets exceed £3 billion. Suffolk Life has acquired over 1,600 properties for over 2,500 SIPP investors.

Established in 1971 and based in Ipswich, Suffolk Life employs around 200 people and has built an enviable reputation based on its expertise and knowledge of the SIPP market.

This has been recognised through numerous awards including:-

Technology, Admin and Service award, Income drawdown – Pensions Management 2008
Technology, Admin and Service award, SIPPs – Pensions Management 2007 & 2006
Best SIPP Provider - Professional Adviser 2006
Best SIPP Provider - Professional Pensions 2006 & 2005
Best SIPP Product - Moneyfacts 2005
Best Buy - Investors Chronicle 2005
Admin & Service awards, SIPPs – Pensions Management, wins in 2002, 2003 & 2004, commended in 2005

Financial Adviser 5 star service award 2008

Investor in Customers 2 star award for 2006 & 2008

Suffolk Life was acquired by Legal and General in May 2008