

For immediate release: 21 August 2014

Property bounces back to the top of the IMA leader table

The property sector has returned to the top of the IMA leader board, as the bestselling sector with the highest percentage of net sales in July, according to figures from Cofunds, the leading general investment platform in the UK.

The property sector has regained popularity, recording the highest percentage of net sales of 61.79 per cent in July, after huge inflows into the CF Woodford Equity Income fund meant the sector came second to UK Equity Income in June. Property's continued placing within the top five IMA leader board throughout the year is strongly linked to the continued economic recovery and a growing number of investors looking to invest in funds that offer strong potential growth over a longer period of time.

Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares retained its position in second place with 46.99 per cent of net sales as advisers continue to seek ways to diversify client portfolios and preserve capital.

Inflows in the UK Equity Income sector continued to gain pace with advisers keen to gain exposure to UK funds. Driven by a strong sterling, the sector placed third recording 41.69 per cent of net sales.

The Sterling Strategic Bond sector placed fourth within the top five IMA table with 33.32 per cent of net sales. Its position confirms increased investor appetite for flexible investments that have the potential to deliver strong returns in challenging market conditions.

The Japan sector also gained popularity with 7.58 per cent of net sales, after re-entering the top five for the first time this year. Popularity for the sector, which last featured amongst the top five in October last year, is driven by Japan's stock market rally since the second half of last year, following the announcement of massive stimulus measures.

Meanwhile, a number of property funds featured in the top 20 highest selling, although it was the hugely popular Woodford offering, which launched in June that retained its position as the bestselling fund in July.

Adam Smith, Commercial Director at Cofunds commented:

“The popularity experienced by the property sector reflects a stronger domestic economy and a perception of less risk in the global economy.

“All the reference indicators point to healthy growth in the commercial and rental sectors, especially in the London and surrounding areas, which bodes well for property funds’ performance in the tables in the future.”

Top five IMA sectors in July	
1	Property
2	Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares
3	UK Equity Income
4	£ Strategic Bond
5	Japan

Top 20 bestselling funds	
1.	CF Woodford Equity Income
2.	Threadneedle Equity & Bond
3.	Henderson Cautious Managed
4.	Artemis Global Income
5.	Henderson UK Property
6.	Premier Multi-Asset Distribution
7.	Invesco Perpetual Gbl Targeted Ret
8.	HSBC American Index
9.	SWIP Property
10.	Jupiter Strategic Bond
11.	HSBC FTSE All-Share Index
12.	M&G Feeder of Property Portfolio
13.	F&C MM Navigator Distribution
14.	Legal & General UK Property Feeder
15.	Threadneedle UK Equity Income
16.	Artemis High Income
17.	Threadneedle UK Property Trust
18.	M&G Optimal Income
19.	M&G Episode Balanced
20.	JOHCM UK Equity Income

- Ends -

For further information please call:

Laura Cronin, Lansons - 0207 294 3607 / laurac@lansons.com

Jennifer Stevens, Lansons - 020 7566 9723 / jennifers@lansons.com

Notes to Editors

About Cofunds

Cofunds is the leading general investment platform for advisers and other financial institutions, with assets under administration of over £67.3bn*. It provides flexible administration and management services for advisers and their clients as well as dealing and custody services for financial institutions. It does not offer investment management or advice, nor does it compete with advisers by offering its services direct to the end client. Cofunds exists to serve the needs of institutions, advisers, their clients, and fund managers. Cofunds is wholly owned by Legal & General and authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

* Source Fundscape at 31/3/14 (nb these assets are made up of Cofunds and Investor Portfolio Services)