

Hub enables Nationwide supplier rationalisation

Nationwide Building Society has partnered with iSite, a division of property services company Styles & Wood, to launch a property asset management tool called the Hub.

The Hub is an online platform for overseeing property, assets and facilities, which connects directly with a company's outsourced partners and their computer systems, to build and compare data and enable informed decision-making.

Steve Head, former head of performance and governance at the building society, explains the decision to launch the Hub: "It was clear a few years ago that the financial industry as a whole was beginning to struggle. Property wasn't core business and we were being required to take money out of the operation while preserving quality. We knew the road to improvement could lie with the supply chain. We had hundreds of suppliers and we wanted to rationalise and consolidate what we had."

Between 2008 and 2011 the company underwent a process to streamline its supply chain. Across its portfolio of 1,000 branches, 40 administration buildings, two headquarters and two data centres, Colliers handles its transactional and strategic work



and Carillion its facilities management. This has enabled Nationwide to reduce its internal property team from 100 to around 30.

"We were also running several IT systems – one for real estate, one for building surveying, one for engineering, one for workplace. They were very expensive and each was duplicating information which the others held," says Head. "Gradually we got them into one integrated system: the Hub. We make it a condition of contracts that suppliers' systems are compatible with ours and provide the data we need."

Nationwide uses the Hub to handle property, workplace planning, facilities management, health and safety and compliance. iSite is now also working with Lloyds, Barclays and Tesco. ■

IN BRIEF

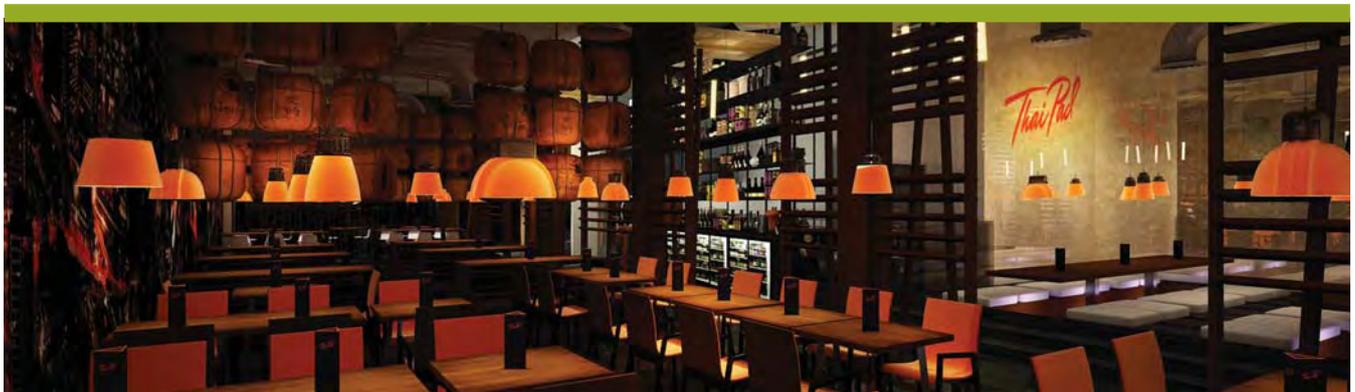
Gino to sauce Pasta Bars

Davis Coffey Lyons has been instructed by TV chef Gino D'Acampo (right) to find sites for his new concept, "the Pasta Bar", where consumers choose their pasta and sauce and add toppings. Brandon Elmon, director of Davis Coffey Lyons' acquisitions team, is looking for A1 sites of 1,500-2,000 sq ft in London's West End and City. A3 sites will also be considered.



Party time at Sutton Coldfield

Party Fiesta has taken its fifth UK store, at the Mall Sutton Coldfield. It has signed a 10-year lease on a 3,800 sq ft unit as part of plans to open 30 more UK sites by 2015. Asset manager Capital & Regional has also signed the Fragrance Shop, Hotter Shoes, Caffè Nero and Apple franchise Stormfront. KLM acted for the Mall Sutton Coldfield.



Thai food chain seeks new pads

Thai restaurant chain Chaophraya is seeking new sites and launching street food concept Thai Pad.

Chaophraya is owned by Kim Atcharaporn Kaewkraikhot and partner Martin Stead. It opened in Leeds in 2005 and now has five further sites: in Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh – which opened this month. The pair also run Yee Rah Bar & Grill and high-end bar Palm Sugar in Liverpool One, as well as shopping centre express format Chaobaby.

They are looking for further locations for the

Chaophraya brand, as well as sites for new concept Thai Pad. They have retained Kevin Sims, retail director at CBRE, as well as Dan Davies at Tushingham Moore to cover the north-west.

"We plan to open two more Chaophrayas next year," says Stead. "Our target is 15 locations in large city centres across the UK, including London, Newcastle, Bristol, Oxford and Dublin.

"Ideally we want sites of between 5,000 sq ft and 7,000 sq ft, and will consider quirky buildings and layouts. We want to create individuality, with no two restaurants the same. For example, the

Glasgow site is grade A-listed and dates back to the 1800s, and that is reflected in the £2.4m fit-out. Liverpool, by contrast, is a new building with lots of glass and a contemporary look.

"For Thai Pad, we have a target to do three next year and five in 2014. We are in negotiations on around five locations with big landlords and we are hoping to open the first in the first quarter of next year. It will have a rustic design, reflecting the Bangkok street vibe. We are looking for sites of 3,000-4,000 sq ft, in big shopping centres, city centres and affluent suburbs across the UK." ■