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# Wise Money

## WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

We all start the year with good intentions, but how many of these relate to our financial planning? Well here's a few good suggestions to start the year with.

### Investments

When was the last time you had a proper review and overhaul of your investments? Market conditions are constantly changing and 2007 has been a turbulent year, with the sub-prime lending crisis, highest interest rates for a few years and the run on the Northern Rock Bank. Start 2008 with a proper review and speak to one of our investment advisers.

### Pensions

About as interesting as watching paint dry for most people. However, pensions form the basis of our future financial security and it has been well publicised in the media that the UK has a £27 billion funding short fall. In reality, pensions provide us with the most tax-efficient method of savings for our retirement and for larger pension pots self investment is a very attractive option and makes the prospect of saving for retirement much more interesting!

### Mortgages

Staggeringly, at least a third of all mort-

gages are on standard variable rates, when lenders could be benefiting from attractive mortgage deals that could literally save them thousands of pounds over time. Reviewing one's mortgage need not be something that is done when moving house, it's something that should be reviewed every two or three years to make sure that you are getting the best deal. Take the pain away by speaking to us and we'll find the best deal for you.

### Protection

How much life insurance would you buy today if you knew you were going to die tomorrow? Horrible thought, isn't it! However, life insurance and other forms of personal and business protection are designed to provide financial security in the event of the unexpected. Start the year by making sure that your family or business are protected.

### Tax Planning

Following the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review every one should look again at their personal tax planning, in particular those with large estates and higher rate tax payers. We all work hard for our money so it's important to



keep hold of it for our own and our family's benefit. Planning ahead can save literally thousands of pounds in tax.

It may be a cliché, but like most clichés it is true; "People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan".

**Make sure that you plan this year.**

Written by Malcolm Coury,  
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