



OUR INVESTMENT APPROACH EXPLAINED

An investment portfolio that
suits your circumstances



BLACKROOT
FINANCIAL PLANNING

We appreciate that everybody is unique and that how, and with whom you invest your money, is one of the most important decisions you will make.

We offer a comprehensive advice service that enables us to support your individual needs so that you can invest with confidence. Here is a guide of how we will support you to help you to achieve your investment goals.

Step 1 – Getting to Know You

It is critical that we get a full picture of your financial circumstances and plans for the future.

We will:

- Ask you about your current circumstances and your financial goals. You will then be asked to fill in a short questionnaire which is designed to help us understand your attitude to risk.
- Use the questionnaire to create a suggested “risk profile” based on your answers. We will discuss the results with you, and together, decide if the risk profile is appropriate for you and your particular needs. This includes how much potential loss you are willing to accept in return for potential gains, as well as considering your capacity for loss according to your circumstances.

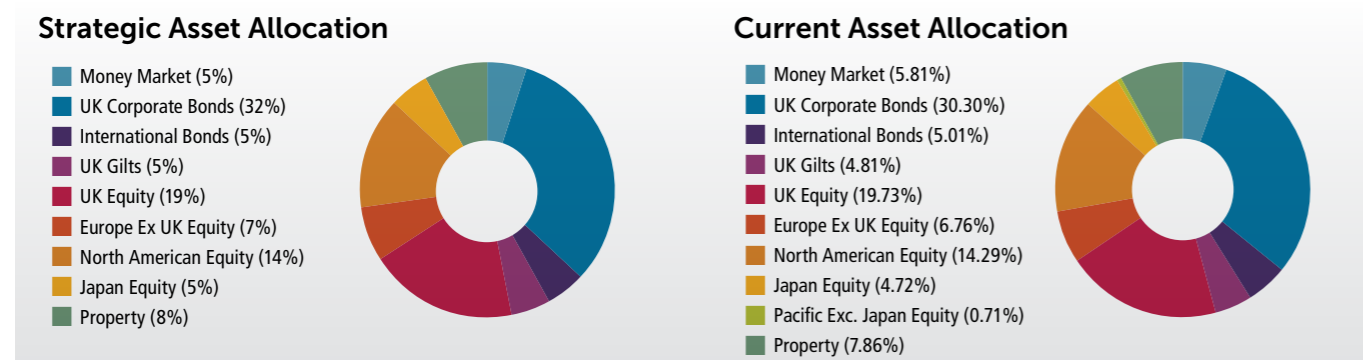
Step 2 – Building a Plan

The investment portfolio we recommend will match your needs. It will operate within clear boundaries, not deviating from the most appropriate portfolio for your circumstances. This helps to avoid what is known as “investment drift” – a situation where your investments start off meeting your needs but the overall portfolio soon changes over time as different assets perform at different rates.

Once we understand your needs, and have agreed the amount of risk you are willing to take, we will build a comprehensive plan to help you achieve your goals.

This may include the following:

- Our award winning* investment analysis tools will show you how your current investments match the risk profile that we have agreed.
- Assessing any existing investments you have and identify those you should keep and those which do not match your aims and attitude to risk.
- Selecting investments which match your needs and will remain aligned, now and in the future.
- Investing in the most tax efficient way, dependent on your circumstances.



*Distribution Technology's financial planning tools were awarded the greatest number of star ratings from a survey of 57 different tools, conducted in July 2011 by the Finance & Technology Research Centre (F&TRC) for financial planning tools that support 'growing pensions.' Overall, the financial planning tools received an impressive 89 "four and five star" ratings in the 2011 E-Excellence research by F&TRC, spanning the growing pensions, at retirement, investment and protection sectors.

Step 3 – Implementing the Plan

Once we have agreed on a plan we will implement that plan for you and ensure that the process of arranging the necessary investments is as hassle free as possible.

We will:

- Walk you through all the necessary paperwork and ease the administrative burden.
- Only deal with reputable investment firms that we know and trust.
- Ensure that the investments selected will be suitable for you.

Step 4 – Reviewing Your Plans

Agreeing and implementing the right financial plan is only the beginning of the process. Your circumstances and goals may change over time.

We can:

- Provide you with updates on your investments.
- Agree a regular schedule for reviews if you require them.
- Ensure that as your plans and goals change over time, your investments continue to match your needs.



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