CST Wealth

Chartered Financial Planners

GUIDE TO

Defined benefit pension scheme transfers

CST Wealth

Chartered Financial Planners

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WELCOME

In CST Wealth's guide to defined benefit pension scheme transfers – also called a 'final salary pension scheme' – we consider why millions of people who have saved into a defined benefit pension scheme are now increasingly facing a greater temptation to transfer their savings to an alternative pension arrangement.

The retirement landscape is more challenging and complex than ever before. However, a combination of careful planning and flexible investment solutions from CST Wealth could help mitigate some of the challenges.

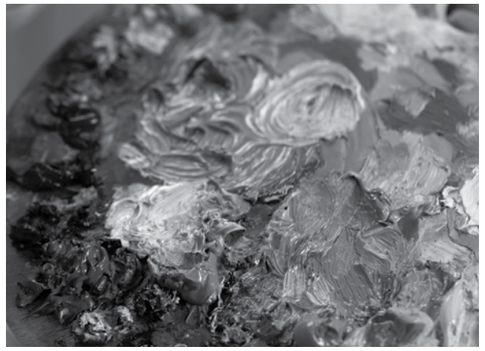
The perfect pension income storm is now upon us, and although defined benefit pension schemes may be gold-plated, they could also mean you are sitting on a transferable goldmine. The reason why so many defined benefit pension schemes are closing is basically because of affordability.

Pensioners today are living longer, while the investment performance of many funds has been underwhelming, combined with the lowest investment yields in decades.

As a result, the cost of providing defined benefit pensions has been spiralling upwards. Employers have long been nervous about the long-term expense of providing defined benefit pensions, but this finally came to a head when the UK voted for Brexit.

After the vote, defined benefit pension funds were keener than ever to take a bigger short-term hit to stave off longer-term costs, and so the incentives of cash being put in front of members to leave schemes increased considerably.

These cash lump sums are known as 'cash equivalent transfer values' (CETVs). These sums are what your pension fund will offer you to transfer out of your defined benefit pension scheme. By leaving, you forfeit any right to future payments from the scheme, but in exchange you get a pot of pension cash – which may well be substantial. ■



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DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION STRICT RULES

Paying you a set amount when you've retired

Strict rules apply if you have a defined benefit pension, which pays you a set amount when you've retired, valued at more than £30,000. Since April 2015 when the then Chancellor, George Osborne, announced the introduction of new pension freedoms, no one has been allowed to transfer defined benefit pensions of this size without first taking professional financial advice.

Defined benefit pension scheme transfers have tripled

Since this rule was introduced, data released by the Financial Conduct Authority highlights the fact that requests for financial advice in relation to defined benefit pension scheme transfers have tripled since these new pension freedoms were introduced.

It's understandable why more people who have a defined benefit pension scheme (and if appropriate to their particular situation) might want to transfer to a defined contribution pension. Defined benefit pension schemes don't generally offer the same level of flexibility as defined contribution pensions – for example, the option of drawing a higher pension for a few years and then a lower pension thereafter.

The new pension freedoms are attractive, but members of defined benefit pension schemes need to consider their decision to transfer very carefully. For some, it may be better to transfer to a money purchase arrangement (like a personal pension), but certainly not all cases. There are risks in doing so, and each case must be viewed in isolation to determine objectives and basically whether you can achieve what you want where you are. ■

"The new pension freedoms are attractive, but members of defined benefit pension schemes need to consider their decision to transfer very carefully."

> Defined benefit pension schemes value their pension promises on the basis of the yields paid on government bonds or gilts.

INHERITANCE TAX MATTERS

Passing any unused savings down the generations

While defined benefit pension schemes pay a guaranteed income for life, they are not as flexible as the alternative defined contribution plans. Under the latter, if appropriate you can take multiple lump sums and pass any unused savings down the generations free of Inheritance Tax.

Inheritance Tax is a tax on the estate of someone who has died, including all property, possessions and money.

There is normally no tax to be paid if:

- The value of your estate is below the Inheritance Tax threshold of £325,000
- You leave everything to your spouse or registered civil partner
- You leave everything to an exempt beneficiary such as a charity

If the value of your estate is above the nil rate band (NRB) of £325,000, then the part of your estate that is above this threshold will be liable for tax at the rate of 40%.

So, if your estate is worth £525,000 and your Inheritance Tax threshold is £325,000, the tax charged will be on £200,000 (£525,000 - £325,000). The tax would be £80,000 (40% of £200,000).

The NRB is fixed at £325,000 until 2021.

The Residence Nil Rate Band (RNRB) – also known as the 'home allowance' – has been introduced recently.

The home allowance is on top of the NRB. To be eligible, you must pass your home or a share of it to your children or grandchildren.

This includes step-children, adopted children and foster children, but not nieces, nephews or siblings.

Provided certain conditions are met, the home allowance gives you an additional allowance to be used to reduce the Inheritance Tax against your home.

The home allowance is currently £100,000, but it will rise incrementally to reach £175,000 in 2020/21 and in line with the Consumer Price Index thereafter.

In a defined benefit pension scheme, income is typically not paid after the death of the member's spouse.

Defined benefit pension schemes value their pension promises on the basis of the yields paid on government bonds or gilts. A deficit means that the assets in a pension scheme are insufficient to meet the pensions that will need to be paid out to members over a set period. The calculation is based on a range of factors, including gilt yields, estimates for life expectancy and stock market fluctuations. ■

PAYOUTS TO NEWLY RETIRING PENSIONERS FALLING

UK defined benefit pension funds are heavily in deficit

UK defined benefit pension funds are heavily in deficit, according to several industry monitoring systems. First Actuarial (a partnership of consulting actuaries that offer pension services) reported that 5,945 defined benefit schemes in the UK had a £306 billion surplus under realistic investment return assumptions at the end of October 2016.

Consultancy firm PwC's Skyval Index show the deficit of 6,000 UK defined benefit pension funds stands at £690 billion.

Buying a retirement income product
Annuities suffered their worst year on record in 2016, with payouts to newly retiring pensioners falling by 15%, according to data provider Moneyfacts. An annuity is a financial product which gives you a guaranteed income for life when you retire. Because pension savings don't automatically do this, some people decide to use these savings to buy a retirement income product.

If you have a defined benefit pension due to be payable, you effectively own a deferred annuity. If you don't need insurance against a long life, or to get guaranteed income payments, then a defined benefit pension transfer gives you the option to cash out of these expensive insurances and take advantage of the new flexible pension freedom rules.

Prospect of negative interest rates
Moneyfacts said that the average annuity income for a 65-year-old had fallen by 14.8% on a £10,000 purchase price, and by 15% on a £50,000 purchase price in 2016. The figures are based on a pensioner buying a flat-rate annuity that does not increase with inflation.

Annuity rates are largely influenced by two factors: interest rates and the longevity prospects of the population. The Bank of England base rate cut after the Brexit vote and the prospect of negative interest rates have pushed the incomes paid on annuities to levels unthinkable even a few years ago.

Rates fall to all-time lows
2016 witnessed rates fall to all-time lows. This is particularly disappointing, as the stock market volatility that we are experiencing has re-emphasised the importance of a secure lifetime income for many retirees.

Unfortunately, record low gilt yields following the EU referendum result, the impact of Solvency II legislation and a significant weakening of competition in the annuity market have all exerted considerable downward pressure on annuity rates during 2016.

The falls in annuity rates easily surpass the previous largest annual annuity income drop of 11.5% recorded in 2012. ■

> "If you have a defined benefit pension due to be payable, you effectively own a deferred annuity."

GUIDE TO DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME TRANSFERS

EXAMINING THE TAX IMPLICATIONS

Relying on what you can earn from your savings

If you are reaching retirement age without the protection of a salary-based pension, you may have to rely on what you can earn from your savings. Under new pension freedom rules, you are allowed to access your pension savings from the age of 55, but you need to closely examine the tax implications.

As the annuity costs have risen, so have the cash value of transfer offers. For the very same reasons individuals have all but stopped buying annuities, more and more deferred members of defined benefit schemes may find the transfer route attractive, if appropriate.

Could you be better off considering moving to a different pension option?

Defined benefit pension schemes have often been regarded as the ideal path to a comfortable retirement. However, many UK defined benefit pension funds are heavily in deficit, and some individuals may be better off considering moving to a different pension arrangement.

A pension transfer from a defined benefit pension scheme means giving up your scheme benefits in return for a cash value which is invested in another pension scheme. Defined benefit pension schemes pay a retirement income based on your salary and how long you were in the scheme – this includes 'final salary' and 'career average' pension schemes.

'It is estimated that there are around 10 million people in public and private sector defined benefit schemes that have the right to transfer'

The Pensions Regulator estimates 80,000 people transferred their defined benefit pension scheme in 2016. There are a number of reasons to look into your defined benefit pension scheme transfer options. ■

	Defined Benefit Pension	Alternative Pension
Can access pension at 55	No	Yes
Can take 25% tax-free cash	Restricted	Yes
100% income for surviving spouse	No	Yes
Can leave the pension fund to children	No	Yes
Can decide when to retire	No	Yes
Can have a phased retirement	No	Yes
Can decide how much income to take	No	Yes
Can take further lump sums out	No	Yes
Can enjoy investment growth	No	Yes
Can react if I suffer ill health	No	Yes
Worry about future scheme security	Yes	No

TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR PENSION

Why would you want to transfer your defined benefit pension scheme?

Are you worried your pension income might not be enough? Do you want to take control and make your defined benefit pension work harder?

These are the main considerations to think about when assessing whether you should transfer your pot.

> In terms of flexibility, those aged 55 and over can now generally access their defined contribution pension scheme pot as they wish.

FLEXIBILITY

Accessing your defined contribution pension scheme pot as you wish

Whilst defined benefit pension scheme rights can be very valuable and attractive, they can also be rather rigid and inflexible. For example, a scheme may have a set pension age – although taking an early pension may be possible, it may not be on favourable terms.

In this case, taking your pension earlier may mean it is much lower than if you had waited until you reached pension age. Similarly, a scheme may have generous arrangements for married members who leave behind a widow or widower, but these may be of no value to unmarried members of the scheme.

If you convert your defined benefit pension scheme rights into cash and put the money into a defined contribution pension scheme instead, then you benefit from the new pension freedoms which allow you much more choice about how you use your money. In addition, the cash amount that you are offered will generally reflect the average cost to the scheme of providing benefits to widows and widowers, so if you are a single person you will get some of the value of that provision which you would not have done if you had stayed in the scheme.

In terms of flexibility, those aged 55 and over can now generally access their defined contribution pension scheme pot as they wish. So if you wanted to retire at 60 and live off your savings, you could do this with a defined contribution pension scheme, whereas you might have had to wait until you were 65 if you had stayed in the defined benefit pension scheme.

Transferring the money does not mean it will last any longer (and indeed if the valuation of the rights is done on a cautious basis, you may be losing some value when you transfer). So although you can take your pension earlier under a defined contribution pension scheme arrangement, you will be spreading the value of your pot over more years than if you had waited until the scheme pension age under the defined benefit pension scheme arrangement.

Another important aspect of the increased flexibility following a transfer is that you can decide how you want to spread your income and spending through your retirement rather than having a rigid amount throughout. For example, you may take the view that you want to spend more in earlier retirement while you are more mobile and able to travel, and spend less later in retirement – having a defined contribution pension scheme pot to draw on enables you to make alternative choices. ■

ACCESSING MORE OF YOUR PENSION POT

Taking one quarter of your money as a tax-free cash lump sum

Whilst income from a private pension is subject to Income Tax, most pensions allow you to take one quarter in the form of tax-free cash. In a defined benefit pension scheme, this usually means you receive a cash lump sum at retirement plus a lower regular pension than if you had not taken the cash. In a defined contribution pension scheme, you can generally take one quarter of your pension pot as a tax-free cash lump sum, provided you are aged 55 or over.

One reason why a transfer to a defined contribution pension scheme arrangement may be attractive is the potential to draw a larger tax-free cash lump sum than if you remained in the defined benefit pension scheme. If you stay in a defined benefit pension scheme arrangement, you can generally give up a quarter of your pension rights in exchange for a tax-free lump sum.

However, the value you receive is generally less than a quarter of the value of your pension. This can be for a number of reasons.

These include the fact that:

- Schemes have varying rules for how the pension you have given up is converted into an equivalent lump sum, and in some cases these can be very ungenerous, especially in today's low interest rate environment
- The process of converting from a regular pension to a lump sum is based on the scheme member's pension only, but the rights given up include a potential pension for a widow or widower
- Complex tax rules can mean that the size of the lump sum is reduced relative to the amount of pension given up

One way of thinking about these rates for converting pension foregone into a lump sum is to think about how long you are likely to live. Suppose you expect to live for 20 years and are giving up a pension of £250 a month, or £3,000 a year. Over the next 20 years, you would receive £3,000 times 20, or £60,000, in pension (excluding the effects of inflation). So if the defined benefit scheme offers you a tax-free lump sum of less than £60,000, you might feel that you are not getting a good deal.

An alternative would be to withdraw your entire defined benefit pension rights and transfer them into a defined contribution arrangement. Once the money is in a defined benefit arrangement (and assuming you are aged 55 or over), you can then take one quarter of the whole pot as a tax-free lump sum, and this is likely to be a larger figure than under the defined benefit arrangement. If tax-free cash is particularly important to you, there may be some advantages to transferring out, especially if your scheme is one which offers relatively ungenerous tax-free lump sums within the scheme. ■

> "If you stay in a defined benefit pension scheme arrangement, you can generally give up a quarter of your pension rights in exchange for a tax-free lump sum."

INHERITANCE

Who will be left behind after your death?

Whether or not it makes sense to stay in your defined benefit scheme may depend in part on who will be left behind after your death and to what extent you want to support them financially. Recent changes in the tax rules on inheritance of certain sorts of pensions have made it more attractive to consider having your pension rights outside the existing defined benefit scheme.

If you remain a member of your current pension scheme, then when you die there may be a pension for your surviving widow or widower. If you die very early (perhaps a few years into receiving your pension), your widow or widower may benefit from a guarantee period where the full pension has to be paid for a minimum of (say) five years.

If you are part of a couple but not married, those rights may be more limited, but this will vary from scheme to scheme and may be at the discretion of the scheme trustees. And there may also be some pension entitlement to any surviving dependants such as children of school age.

Whilst such provision is welcome and valuable, it does mean that in many cases when you (and perhaps your widow/widower) die, your pension dies with you. In particular, there is nothing left to pass on to your heirs and successors.

An alternative is to convert your defined benefit pension rights into cash and then transfer the money into a pension (if you are still saving) or a drawdown arrangement. In this case, if you were to die, the value of the assets in the pension or investment could pass on to your heirs. One particularly important consideration is the tax treatment of such money.

Under recent changes, if you die before the age of 75, then the cash balance left behind can be received by your successors completely tax-free. Even if you die over the age of 75, then whoever inherits your pot only has to pay Income Tax in the usual way when they make withdrawals. Furthermore, if your successors do not draw on this inheritance (perhaps because they already have sufficient income), then it can be passed on to subsequent generations. ■

> If you think you might be one of those whose life expectancy is below average, then you might consider taking a transfer out.

HEALTH

Forming a view as to which option would give you the better value

One of the advantages of a defined benefit pension is that it lasts as long as you do.

But what about people who think – or know – that their life expectancy is likely to be on the short side? For example, if you draw a pension at 65 and die at 71, then you will not have got much out of the pension scheme compared with someone who lives well into their nineties. Defined benefit pension schemes work by pooling risk, and in effect those who live for the longest time are subsidised by those who live for the shortest time.

If you think you might be one of those whose life expectancy is below average, then you might consider taking a transfer out. The value you are offered should (broadly) reflect average life expectancy, and this may be a bigger amount of money than the amount it would have cost the scheme to pay your pension if you had stayed in but died relatively young.

If you take your money out in this situation, you could simply invest it with a view to your heirs receiving the cash when you die. Alternatively, if you are not concerned about leaving anything behind after you are gone, you could buy something called an 'enhanced annuity'. This is basically an income for life, but one which takes some account of your likelihood of dying prematurely.

So, for example, someone who has been a chain smoker all their life or who has a serious medical condition might be able to get a relatively generous annuity rate because the annuity provider does not expect to be paying the annuity for very long.

One option would be to obtain a transfer value quotation from your current scheme and then find out what annuity you might be able to buy before actually making the transfer. You could then form a view as to which option would give you the better value. ■

SOLVENCY OF THE SPONSORING EMPLOYER

Moving the cash equivalent value of your current pension rights into a pension fund of your own

If the employer who sponsors your defined benefit pension scheme is at risk of becoming insolvent, then there is a chance that you might not get all of the pension you were expecting. But if you transfer out of the scheme, then your investment fund will be unaffected by what subsequently happens to your ex-employer's business.

The way the system works is that if the firm that stands behind a defined benefit pension scheme becomes insolvent, and if the pension scheme is well short of the money it needs to pay all of its future pension promises, then the scheme will be transferred into an insurance-type lifeboat arrangement called the Pension Protection Fund (PPF).

Under the rules of the PPF, those who have already reached the normal age for drawing a pension by the time of the insolvency will get 100% of their pension paid by the PPF, whilst those who are under the scheme's pension age will get 90%. Note that what matters is your age relative to the scheme's pension age and not whether or not you have retired.

In addition to the reduction for those under scheme pension age, there are several other reasons why the pension you get from the PPF may be lower than the pension you would have got had the employer remained in business:

- The PPF only provides annual inflation protection in respect of years of service since 1997. This is because this is the minimum required by law, but if your scheme had more generous rules (for example, giving you inflation protection for all your service), then you may get a series of smaller annual increases through your retirement
- The PPF uses the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) as its measure of inflation when setting pension increases. Some schemes use the generally higher Retail Prices Index (RPI). Over time, this could make a significant difference to how much pension you get
- For those with the highest pension entitlements, the PPF applies a cap if you enter the PPF below scheme pension age

For all of these reasons, if you think that your employer might not still be in business in a few years' time and might leave the pension fund with a significant shortfall, it might be advantageous to consider moving the cash equivalent value of your current pension rights into a pension fund of your own. ■

CASE STUDY

Substantial capital value sum

CST Wealth client David had worked for a large national employer for 30 years and approached CST Wealth to review his retirement options. He was concerned that on his death, his wife would only receive 50% of his gross retirement pension, and on her death his children would receive no pension legacy. The capital value was a substantial sum, and the ability to retain the fund in a tax-free environment and to pass the wealth onto his children was his main objective.

David had built substantial wealth outside his pension in the form of Individual Savings Account (ISA) balances and a small buy-to-let portfolio with a stable rental income. Therefore, he could afford to take risks by moving his final salary capital benefits into a personal pension.

We asked David and his wife to complete a detailed fact find which covered all of their assets and liabilities and their normal monthly expenditure, but also covering their 'retirement bucket' wish list (cars, holidays, etc.).

This information allowed us to establish the investment growth needed, and we prepared a bespoke financial model to compare a personal pension strategy to the guaranteed income remaining in the defined benefit scheme would provide.

By having other assets, David could survive a financial disaster. By providing a very cautious investment strategy, we were able to demonstrate that a large legacy would be left to his wife and children, which was his main objective. ■

PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL ADVICE

Could you end up with a bigger pension?

In some cases, you may be worse off if you transfer out of a defined benefit scheme, even if your employer gives you an incentive to leave. Before proceeding, you should always seek professional financial advice about your particular situation.

Transfer values often include the value of a spouse or partner's pension

If you're single, defined benefit pension scheme transfer values often include the value of a spouse or partner's pension within the calculation (even if you don't have a partner), resulting in a higher transfer value. If you then buy a single life pension from an insurance company, you could end up with a bigger pension.

If you're in what's called an 'unfunded' public sector pension scheme, you won't be able to transfer your pension. Examples of an unfunded public sector pension scheme are the Teachers Scheme and the NHS scheme.

It may be appropriate to transfer your pension if you're in either a private sector defined benefit scheme or a funded public sector pension scheme (such as the local government pension), and there are certain safeguards in place for these schemes.

If you decide to transfer out of your workplace defined benefit pension scheme, the trustees who run the scheme convert the benefits you've built up into a cash sum.

You must then invest this in a personal or stakeholder pension, a pension scheme with another employer, or a self-invested personal pension (SIPPs). Not all employer pension schemes, personal pensions or SIPPs accept transfers, and this is something we can check for you. ■

> "If you're single, defined benefit pension scheme transfer values often include the value of a spouse or partner's pension within the calculation (even if you don't have a partner), resulting in a higher transfer value."

FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO TRANSFER OUT

Offsetting the costs, risks and loss of benefits

A transfer incentive is when your employer offers you a financial incentive to transfer out of a defined benefit pension scheme. This might be a cash payment on top of the transfer value, an enhancement to the calculated transfer value of your benefits in the scheme ('enhanced transfer value'), or a choice about whether you want to transfer the whole of the enhanced value into another pension scheme or take the transfer incentive as cash.

If you take the transfer incentive as cash, you might have to pay Income Tax and National Insurance on it, and you'll receive less pension than if you had accepted the incentive as part of the transfer value.

Increases above the statutory minimum
Other incentives to change scheme benefits might also include being asked to give up increases above the statutory minimum after you retire in return for a higher flat rate pension within the scheme. This is called a 'pension increase exchange' or 'pension increase conversion'. It is essential that you obtain professional financial advice before accepting any offer.

If you're able to transfer out of your defined benefit scheme – and this involves cash equivalent transfer value of £30,000 or over – you'll be required to obtain regulated financial advice first.

Your future pension income
Any potential advantages of transferring from a defined benefit pension scheme to a defined contribution could be offset by the costs, risks and loss of benefits involved.

Your future pension income can't be predicted with any certainty if you transfer to a defined contribution scheme, regardless of whether it's run by your employer or it's a personal or stakeholder pension.

With a personal or stakeholder pension, you'll give up any benefits you had in the former employer's scheme.

Providing a full entitlement
Staying in a defined benefit pension scheme is not risk-free. If your employer is still in business, it usually has to make sure the scheme has enough funds to provide the full entitlement to members. However, some employers sponsoring these schemes have gone out of business, not leaving enough money to pay the pensions promised.

If this situation arises and an employer does go out of business without enough funds in its pension scheme, the Pension Protection Fund might be able to provide compensation, but this might not be the full amount of the pension you've accumulated.

Benefits you might receive
We'll discuss your personal circumstances and financial position with you, including the level of risk you feel comfortable with. In addition, we'll compare the benefits you might give up if you transfer out of your employer's scheme with the benefits you might receive if you transfer into a new employer's scheme or a personal/stakeholder pension.

Part of this process also includes assessing the level to which your employer's pension scheme is funded, the risk that your benefits might be reduced and the effect on any transfer value offered. ■

WANT CST WEALTH TO TRANSFER YOUR PENSION?

Full range of options available to you

At CST Wealth, we'll review the difference between the defined benefit and defined contribution arrangements, provide you with a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of our recommendation, and check the full range of options available to you.

We'll obtain all of the details for your scheme and assess your attitude to risk and investment and make a personal recommendation based on:

- The numbers of years you are away from retirement
- The level of pension you were entitled to when you left your employer
- The scheme rules dictating how pensions increase between leaving the scheme and when you retire and are in retirement, and such things as widow's benefits and guaranteed periods
- How long you might live
- Future investment returns that can be expected on funds set aside to meet your pension liabilities
- The calculation uses standard assumptions about how long you will live and whether you are married, rather than reflecting your own personal situation and state of health. Both the life expectancy factor and the investment return factors are changed from time to time to keep them up to date

CST Wealth handles all of the important documentation, and we'll also provide ongoing advice around how to invest and how to take an income from your fund.

Considering transferring out of your defined benefit pension scheme?
If you're considering transferring out of your defined benefit pension scheme, you should always seek professional financial advice before proceeding. Only then can you make an informed decision about whether a pension transfer is right for you. If you're interested in different available strategies to boost your income in retirement, please contact our experienced CST Wealth chartered financial planning team on 01656 867167 or email info@cstwealth.co.uk ■

"CST Wealth handles all of the important documentation, and we'll also provide ongoing advice around how to invest and how to take an income from your fund."

GWYN WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR AND CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNER

Full range of options available to you

Gwyn is a chartered accountant and chartered Independent Financial Planner, and he leads the investment team. Gwyn is responsible for the financial planning advice to our private and corporate clients. Gwyn is one of two pension transfer specialists who can advise on the benefits or otherwise of transferring from a final salary pension scheme.

Supported by a team, Gwyn provides well-researched and tailored advice across the whole area of wealth management, investment advice, retirement and estate planning.

Gwyn is a chartered financial planner, one of only a small number in Wales. He specialises in the area of investment management, retirement planning and estate planning.

Gwyn is also the managing director of CST Wealth Management Limited, founding the firm in 2014. Gwyn also is owner/director of Clay Shaw Thomas chartered accountants, with 30 years' experience as a Regulated auditor and professional adviser to owner-managed businesses in South Wales. Funds under management exceed £70 million.

Gwyn has also been a Non-Executive director with Swansea Building Society since 2005 and is currently Chairman of the Society. ■

Key Qualifications

- Chartered Financial Planner
- Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning (APFS)
- Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Advanced Diploma in Pension Planning
- Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Advanced Diploma in Investment Planning
- Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Certificate in Discretionary Investment Management
- Member of the Personal Finance Society
- Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- Current Chairman of Swansea Building Society

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Make sure you understand all the risks before investing. The information in this guide represents the views and opinions of CST Wealth and does not constitute and should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell or otherwise invest in any security.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns, and the value of investments and the income they produce can fall as well as rise. You may not get back your original investment, and you may lose all your investment.

Pensions are a long-term investment. The retirement benefits you receive from your pension plan will depend on a number of factors including the value of your plan when you decide to take your benefits which isn't guaranteed, and can go down as well as up. The value of your plan could fall below the amount(s) paid in.