



PenLife 70 Spring 2026



PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT REVIEW

WELCOME TO YOUR SPRING 2026 PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT REVIEW

Your quarterly portfolio investment review is simply designed to give you a brief update of your portfolio, as well as an overview of the changes we are proposing to make to your portfolio this quarter, and reasons why.

We've updated the format of the reports to include:

1. **Markets Update** section as to what's been happening in the markets and how this has impacted decision-making on the portfolios we offer for our clients.
2. **Portfolio Update** section with recommended changes to each portfolio, by risk profile
3. **Important Notices** about actions to take with respect to our review and recommendations.

Your new Portfolio Factsheet is included at the end of this document. For those wanting information on each fund in the portfolio, this can be accessed in the Key Investor Information Documents section at www.pen-life-portfolios.co.uk

Queries or additional information

If you have any queries about any aspect of your financial plan, or your investment portfolio, please contact your financial adviser.

1. MARKETS UPDATE

Introduction

We look at developments in the month that have impacted the three key Macro Factors: Growth, Inflation & Interest Rates, as summarised below.

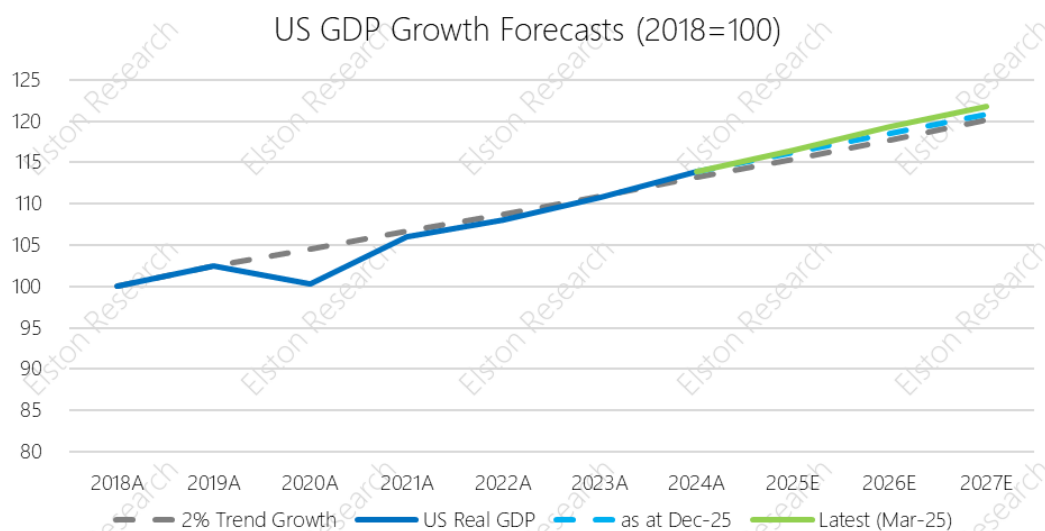
12 month outlook	Last update	This update
Growth	Lower	Higher
Inflation	Higher	Higher
Interest Rates	Outlook is lower than current levels	Lower

GROWTH

Over the next 12 months, the outlook for Growth moved **higher**, in our view.

In the US, the 2025 year end and 2026 year end growth estimates have both been revised moderately higher to 2.23% and 2.50%, up from 1.93% and 1.90% in December. The 2027 growth projection remains unchanged at 2.00%. The upward revisions reflect a rebound in economic activity following last autumn’s government shutdown, supported by the 2025 reconciliation act and strong AI-related business investment, which have more than offset headwinds from higher tariffs and reduced immigration.

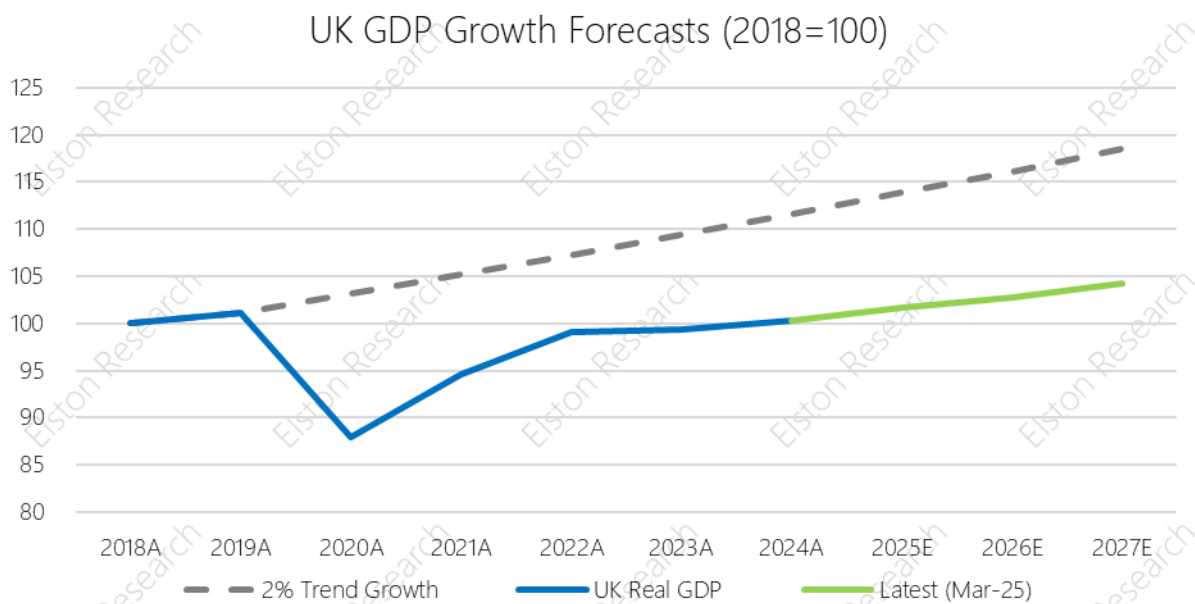
Fig.1. US real GDP growth forecasts



Source: Elston research, Bloomberg data, as at report date

In the UK, the forecast of GDP growth for 2025 year end, 2026 year end and 2027 has been unchanged at 1.40%, 1.10% and 1.40% respectively compared to December. Forecasts remain unchanged from December, reflecting continued modest growth expectations. The OBR also revised down its 2026 estimate to 1.1% from 1.4%, citing weaker-than-anticipated GDP data at end-2025, rising unemployment and subdued business sentiment. Persistent headwinds include weak productivity growth, fiscal tightening, and global trade uncertainty.

Fig.2. UK real GDP growth forecasts



Source: Elston research, Bloomberg data, as at report date

These charts show the US and UK's economic GDP growth trajectory. The charts show more resilience in the US economy in the next 36 months.

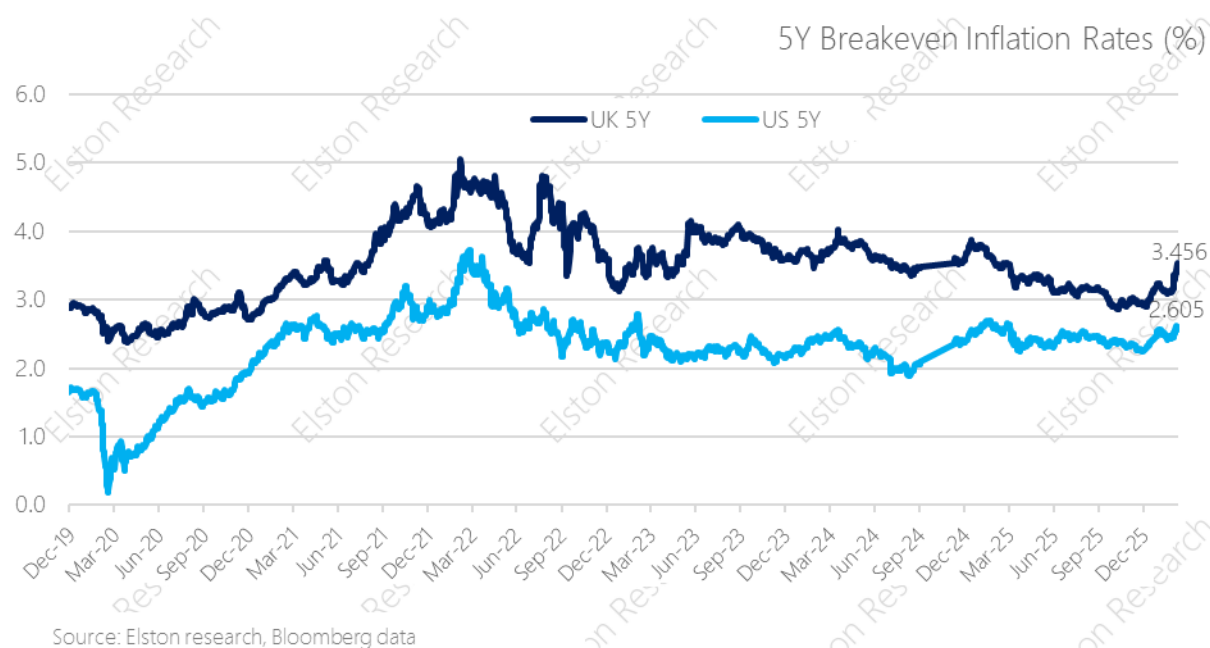
INFLATION

Over the next 12 months, the outlook for Inflation is declining but remains higher than target, in our view.

Fig.3. US & UK inflation expectations

In the US, the 5-Year Break Even Inflation Rate (BEIR) rose to 2.61% to, up from 2.32% in December. This increase suggests that markets now expect higher medium-term inflation in the US. The rise reflects 1. tariff-driven cost pressures and sticky services and shelter inflation already pushing CPI above the Fed's 2% target; and 2. the outbreak of the US-Israel war on Iran on 28th February, which effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz and caused crude oil prices to surge over 40% from pre-war levels, raising near-term inflation expectations sharply.

In the UK, the 5-Year BEIR increased to 3.46% from 2.96% in December, indicating that markets now expect higher medium-term UK inflation, with the BEIR widening further above US levels. The surge reflects the UK's vulnerability to the potential energy shock triggered by the US-Israel conflict with Iran. With the Strait of Hormuz effectively closed, UK and European gas prices nearly doubled as global LNG production was disrupted, compounding already-elevated UK inflation and significantly narrowing the scope for further BoE rate cuts.



This chart shows the forward-looking market-implied 5 year Break-Even Inflation Rate (BEIR), for the US and UK.

INTEREST RATES

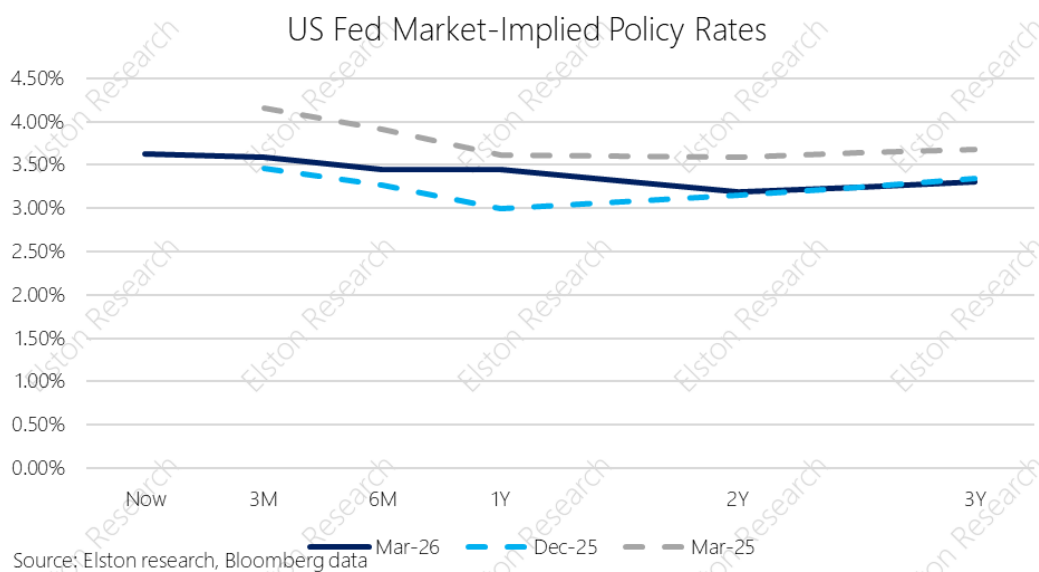
Over the next 12 months, the outlook for Interest Rates moved lower, in our view.

US Federal Reserve (Fed): The federal funds rate currently stands at 3.63%. The Fed held rates unchanged at its January 2026 meeting, pausing after three consecutive cuts in late 2025. The Iran war's energy price shock has since put the Fed in a stagflationary dilemma - non-farm payrolls fell 92,000 in February, the unemployment rate rose to 4.4%, yet cutting rates risks embedding inflation further above target. Markets have priced out near-term easing, with cuts not expected before mid-2026.

UK Bank of England (BoE): The BoE held Bank Rate at 3.75% in February in a close 5-4 vote. Inflation was on track to fall back to the 2% target from April, with pay growth and services inflation easing as the labour market softened. However, the Iran war drove UK gas prices up, with the OBR estimating a potential 1% addition to UK consumer prices by year-end, sharply narrowing the scope for further cuts. Markets now price in no cuts in 2026.

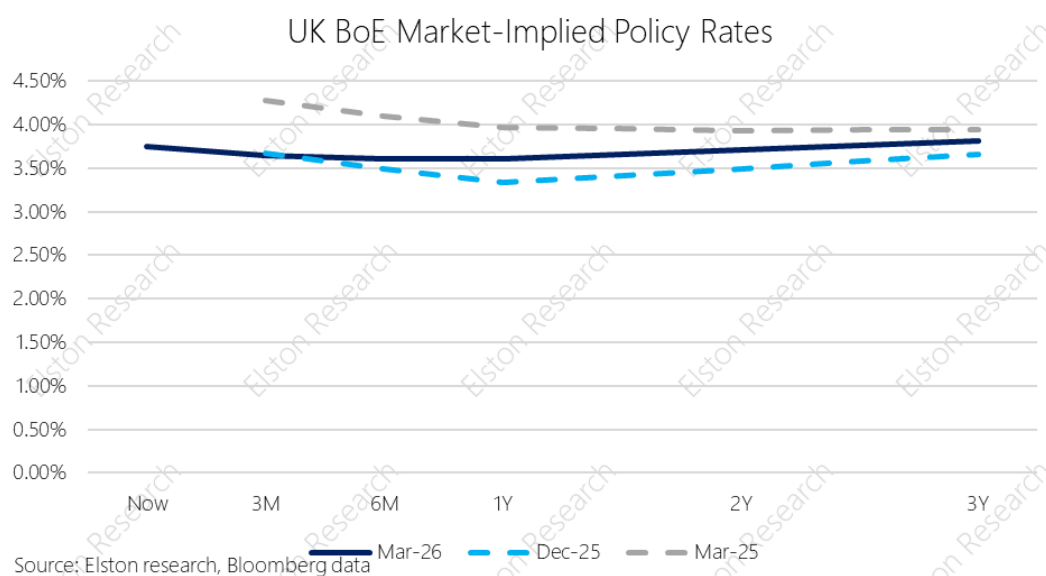
Central Banks' decisions on interest rates will remain highly data-dependent, but growing divergences within committees reflect the uncertainty around the economic outlook and inflationary pressures.

Fig.5. US interest rate expectations



This chart shows the current Fed Funds rate now, the market-implied policy rate path over 3 years (now), against the market-implied policy rate path 3 months ago (dotted)

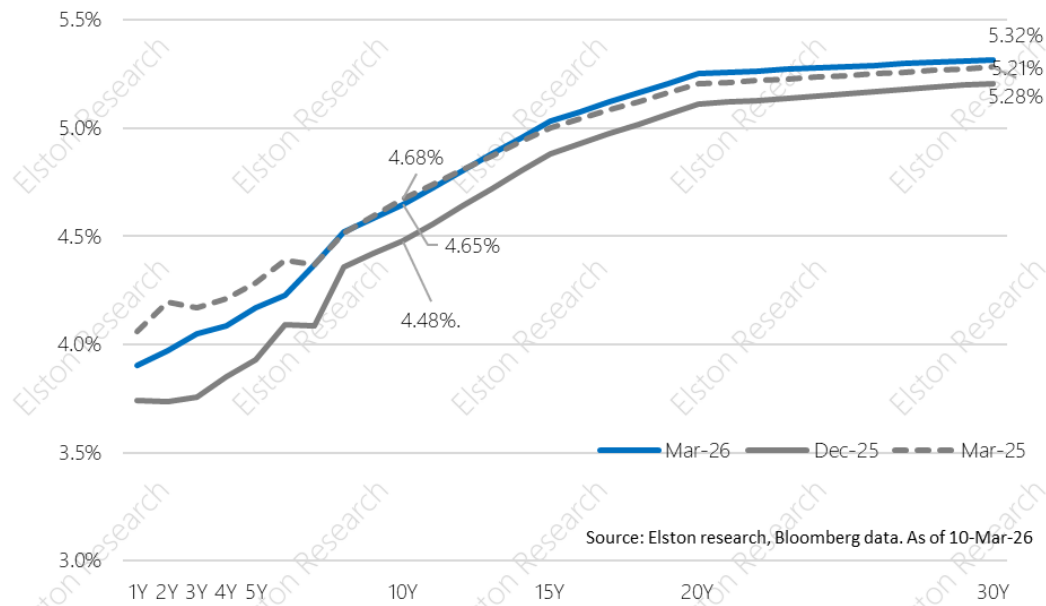
Fig6. UK interest rate expectations



This chart shows the Bank of England policy rate “Bank Rate” now and the market-implied 3 year policy rate. Compared to 3 months ago, the expected interest rates have increased.

Over the past three months, the 10-year Gilts yield increased from 4.48% to 4.65% and the 2-year yield decreased from 3.75% to 3.53%. The 30-year Gilts yield rose from 5.21% to 5.32%. Gilt yields rose sharply across the curve over the quarter, reversing the falling trend of the prior period. The dominant driver was the outbreak of the US-Israel war on Iran, which triggered a significant upward repricing of UK inflation expectations, pushing the 10-year yield to its highest level in five months.

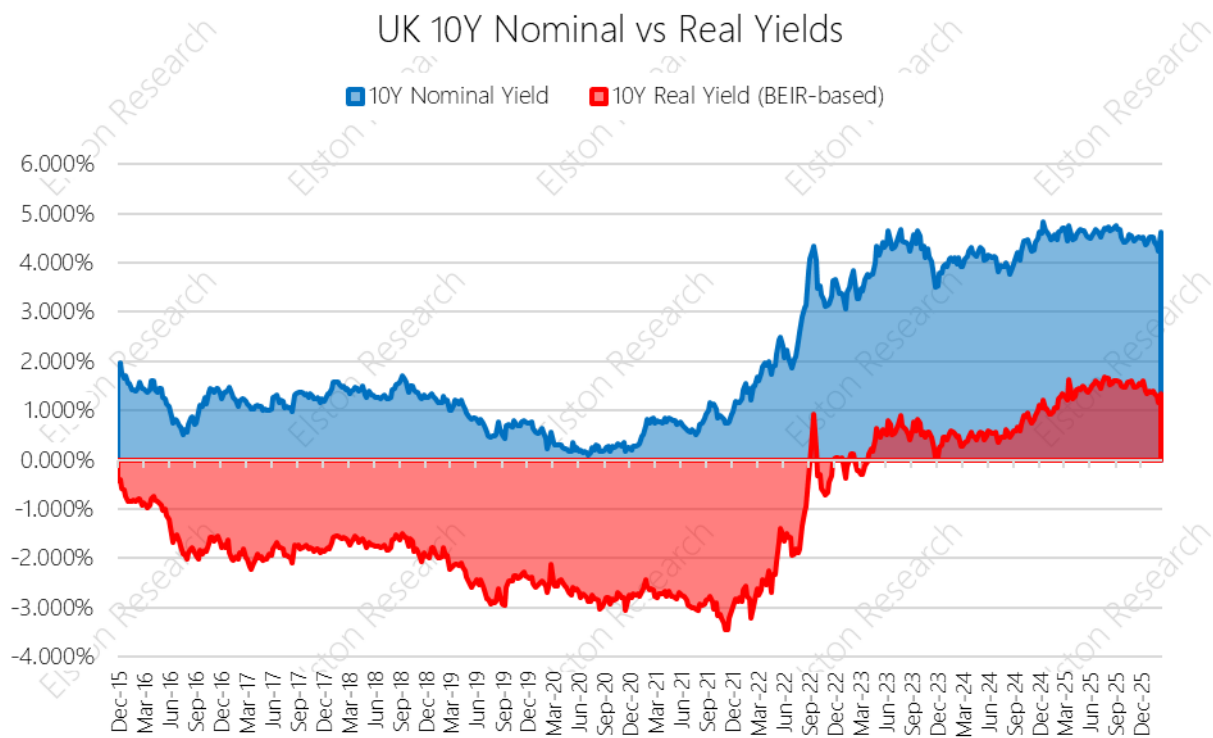
Fig.7. UK yield curve



The chart illustrates the UK government bond yield curve at different points in time (month-end, three months ago, and twelve months ago).

The 10-year nominal gilts yield rose to 4.65% in March, up from 4.48% in December. Real yields however fell from 1.5% in December to 1.3%, as break-even inflation expectations rose faster than nominal yields, reflecting the sharp upward repricing of inflation risk driven by the Iran war energy shock. Despite positive real yields, elevated government deficits, weak productivity growth, and the renewed inflationary pressure from energy prices are likely to keep long-dated gilts under pressure in the near term.

Fig.8. UK nominal vs real yields



Source: Elston research, Bloomberg data

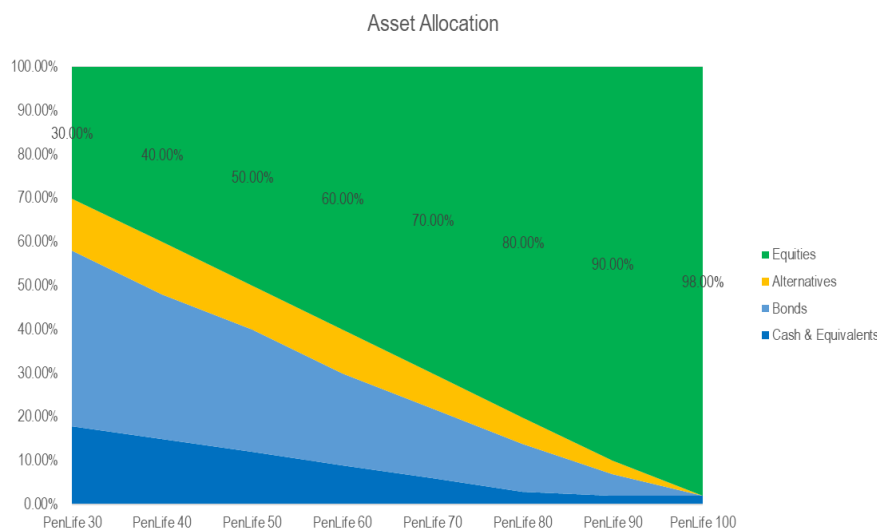
This chart shows nominal (headline) UK government bond yields, as well as how real (adjusted for inflation expectations) yields have evolved over time. The 10-year term is the standard reference rate for comparing government bonds across market. Inflation adjustment uses the break-even inflation rate for the same 10-year term.

2. PORTFOLIO UPDATE

In this section, we outline the recommended changes to the portfolio considering the macroeconomic and market conditions summarised above.

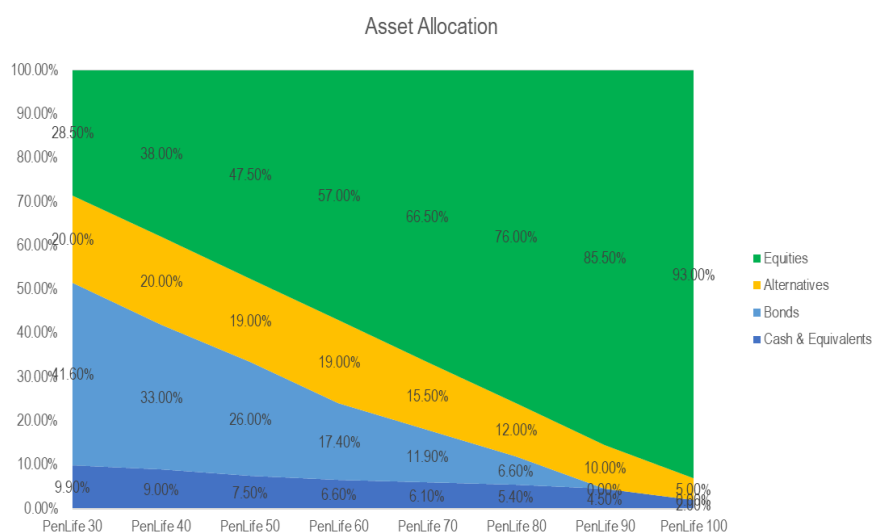
Strategic Asset Allocations (Neutral)

The strategic asset allocation for the portfolios is presented below: this represents the long-term “neutral” position for the portfolios.



Proposed Tactical Asset Allocation

This quarter, we recommend reducing equity from slight Overweight to slight Underweight, trimming US and Global exposure where stretched valuations are most vulnerable to geopolitical risk. We maintain overweight positions in cash equivalents (money market funds) and alternatives as shock absorbers and more resilient sources of return amid elevated uncertainty.



CHANGES WITHIN EACH ASSET CLASS

Asset class	Outlook	Implementation
Equities	<p>Regions: US/Global: We have moved to a slight Underweight position on US equities. While the US remains highly profitable, technology valuations remain stretched with current P/E multiples reaching 44x and most of the AI growth already priced in. The top nine companies now represent nearly 40% of the S&P 500. To mitigate this concentration risk, we are moving some allocation away from the US index into value/yield orientated stocks to maintain exposure to domestic profitability without over-reliance on a few stretched tech stocks. UK: We suggest maintaining a tactical Overweight in UK Equity Income relative to large cap stocks. The UK market is currently favoured due to its low valuations and low correlation to global equities, which provides further diversification. Europe: We remain Neutral on European equities as part of a broader "rotational story" where investors are looking for less allocated markets outside of the US. While Europe offers better value than stretched US technology sectors, we remain mindful of below trend growth compared to the US. Japan: We remain Neutral on Japan as structural tailwinds around buybacks are counterbalanced by rate hikes which could stall any progress. Asia & Emerging Markets: We have moved to an Overweight position for EM equities. EM Equities are supported by attractive valuations and expectations for significant earnings growth in 2026. To manage geopolitical headwinds, we are splitting this exposure half-and-half between broad EM and EM excluding China strategies, ensuring we capture regional growth while insulating the portfolio from specific US-China trade tensions.</p>	<p>Downgrading Equities from slight Overweight to slight Underweight.</p> <p>Diversifying US exposures away from market cap into Value and Yield tilted strategies, which tend to be more resilient in inflationary environments.</p> <p>Moving to Overweight Emerging Markets on strong earnings growth outlook, but diversifying China exposure by using EM and EM ex-China exposures.</p>
Alternatives	<p>Alternatives: While Gold delivered a 54% return in 2025, we are taking a Neutral stance at current levels, viewing it as being driven by retail sentiment and not fundamentals. We believe inflation-resilient alternative assets and strategies can continue to do well in a higher for longer inflation environment. Alternatives look attractive as a way of selectively gaining access to asset classes positively correlated with inflation such as Copper, Oil and Gold - (the "COGs") - as well as broader Commodities and other inflation-resilient asset classes.</p>	<p>Increase Alternatives allocation.</p>
Bonds	<p>Rates: We expect the Bank of England will become increasingly dovish and lead the market to lower rates as the UK job market weakens and inflation reaches target 2% levels. However, we are concerned about an inflation shock due to the ongoing US-Iran war delaying these cuts. Inflation: Headline inflation had been dropping over the last few months but with the recent escalation of war in the Gulf, UK break-even rates have started to rise again, re-igniting risks of a 2022 style inflation shock. Duration: We remain Underweight on duration at 3 years, due to the ongoing concerns about higher for longer interest rates. Credit: We remain Neutral on Corporate Bonds but maintain a strong preference for Emerging Market \$ debt. EM debt is currently viewed as fiscally safer than developed market debt who are running large budget deficits and facing "debt indigestion"</p>	<p>No change</p>
Cash & Equivalents	<p>GBP/USD: We expect continued Sterling weakness vs the Dollar over long term. This is driven by "Dollar primacy" as a stated US national security strategy and the likelihood of the Bank of England cutting rates faster than the Federal Reserve, putting sustained downward pressure on the Pound.</p>	<p>No change</p>

EQUITY PORTFOLIO CHANGES

In our proposed changes, the Equities part of the portfolio is summarised below. We have increased or decreased allocation to our funds as denoted in the difference column (green indicates an increase in allocation and red is a decrease in allocation)

Name	PenLife 70 - Winter 2025/26	PenLife 70 - Spring 2026	Difference
Artemis Global Income I Acc	4.40%	4.40%	0.00%
Artemis SmartGARP European Equity I Acc	2.10%	2.10%	0.00%
Artemis SmartGARP Global Emerging Markets Equity	4.50%	4.20%	-0.30%
Artemis SmartGARP UK Equity I Acc	2.80%	2.80%	0.00%
BNY Mellon US Equity Income Inst W Acc	5.30%	6.40%	1.10%
CT North American Equity 3 Acc	7.90%	7.00%	-0.90%
Fidelity Index US P	13.20%	7.00%	-6.20%
Fidelity Investment Funds ICVC - Index World Fund	7.20%	3.70%	-3.50%
Invesco Emerging Markets ex China Fund (UK) Z Acc	0.00%	2.80%	2.80%
Jupiter India I Acc	1.40%	1.40%	0.00%
Liontrust European Dynamic I Acc	3.50%	3.50%	0.00%
M&G Asian I Acc	4.20%	4.20%	0.00%
Man GLG Japan Core Alpha C Professional Acc	3.50%	3.50%	0.00%
Ninety One UK Special Situations J Acc	2.80%	2.80%	0.00%
Orbis Global Equity Standard Acc	4.40%	4.40%	0.00%
VT Munro Smart-Beta UK Fund	6.30%	6.30%	0.00%

US Equities

We recommend decreasing Fidelity Index US fund and CT North American Equity fund to further reduce US mega-cap tech concentration, while increasing BNY Mellon US Equity Income fund. The fund's value and income tilt through underweight tech, overweight financials and energy, provides a natural diversifier within the US equity exposure, reducing concentration in expensive tech sector while retaining US exposure.

Emerging Market Equities

We recommend moving to overweight emerging markets, supported by strong earnings growth expectations across the region. EM exposure is added through Invesco Emerging Markets ex-China Fund, capturing broader EM growth without increasing China-specific geopolitical risk, including US export controls on technology and semiconductors and ongoing Taiwan tensions.

Global Equities

We recommend decreasing Fidelity Index World fund to fund the increase in Alternatives allocation. A protracted oil shock due to US-Iran conflict reignites inflation while slowing growth. Equities look vulnerable to recession risk as the conflict slows growth and squeezes margins.

ALTERNATIVE PORTFOLIO CHANGES

In our proposed changes, the Alternatives part of the portfolio is summarised below.

Name	PenLife 70 - Winter 2025/26	PenLife 70 - Spring 2026	Difference
VT Avastra Global Alternatives Fund A Acc GBP	10.00%	15.50%	5.50%

Global Alternatives

We recommend increasing VT Avastra Global Diversified Assets fund funded by reducing overall Equity allocations (mainly through Fidelity Index US fund and Fidelity Index World fund) as global markets could potentially face a re-rating if the US-Iran war continues for longer. Alternatives provide risk constrained and uncorrelated returns, which can be resilient in a high inflation environment.

BONDS AND CASH PORTFOLIO CHANGES

In our proposed changes, the bonds and cash part of the portfolio remains unchanged from last quarter.

Name	PenLife 70 - Winter 2025/26	PenLife 70 - Spring 2026	Difference
abrdn Short Duration Global Inflation-Linked Bond	1.50%	1.50%	0.00%
Cash	2.00%	2.00%	0.00%
Jupiter Monthly Income Bond U1 Acc GBP GTR in GB**	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
L&G Strategic Bond I Acc	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
M&G Emerging Markets Bond I Acc GBP GTR in GB	1.40%	1.40%	0.00%
Pimco GIS Global Bond Inst Hedged Acc GBP	1.50%	1.50%	0.00%
Royal London Short Term Money Market Y Acc	2.60%	4.10%	1.50%
VT Avastra Global Fixed Income Acc	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%

We are allocating slightly more to Money Market funds from the equity allocation as we will need to see what data emerges regarding inflation and interest rates over the coming months following the conflict in the Gulf.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE SUMMARY

With these recommended changes, our view is that your portfolio will be better positioned for the upcoming period, whilst remaining in line with its long-term strategic risk-return objective.

Short-run volatility may continue as markets adjust to the outlook for growth, interest rates, and inflation.

Charges

PENLIFE 70 WINTER 25	PENLIFE 70 SPRING 26
OLD PENLIFE PORTFOLIO CHARGE 0.49%	NEW PENLIFE PORTFOLIO CHARGE 0.53%

3. IMPORTANT NOTICES

- WE NEED YOUR EXPRESS AUTHORITY TO SWITCH FUNDS AND REBALANCE BACK TO THE ORIGINAL ASSET ALLOCATION AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUMMARY. PLEASE ACCEPT THE CHANGES BY CLICKING ON THE ACCEPT BUTTON IN YOUR EMAIL OR RETURNING YOUR ACCEPTANCE LETTER.
- WITHDRAWALS FROM PORTFOLIOS DURING THE REBALANCE PERIOD ARE RESTRICTED AND CAN LEAD TO LENGTHY DELAYS. PLEASE ADVISE US OF ANY WITHDRAWAL OR ENCASHMENT REQUESTS BEFORE ACCEPTING THE CHANGES.
- THIS INVESTMENT ADVICE IS BASED ON THE SUITABILITY OF YOUR ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION AND YOU SHOULD REFER BACK TO YOUR LATEST SUITABILITY REPORT FROM US WHICH CONFIRMS HOW OUR ADVICE MEETS YOUR OBJECTIVES. IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGES TO CIRCUMSTANCES, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.
- TAX IMPLICATIONS: IF YOUR CURRENT INVESTMENTS ARE HELD IN A PENSION, ISA OR OFFSHORE BOND, THERE SHOULD BE NO TAX IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR REBALANCE OR FUND SWITCHES. **IF YOU HAVE A GENERAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNT, THERE COULD BE TAX IMPLICATIONS.** YOU MUST LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE MADE ANY DISPOSALS WHICH MAY HAVE USED ANY OF YOUR PERSONAL CAPITAL GAINS TAX ALLOWANCE IN THE CURRENT TAX YEAR. FOR INDIVIDUALS DURING THE 2023-2024 TAX YEAR THE ANNUAL CGT EXEMPTION ALLOWANCE IS £6,000 AND FROM APRIL 2024 IT WILL BE £3,000. ALTHOUGH WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU WITHIN YOUR CGT ALLOWANCE, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL NOT EXCEED THEM.
- PENLIFE AND YOUR WRAP PROVIDER WILL NOT CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES FOR YOUR REBALANCE OR FUND SWITCHES.

TO VIEW YOUR PORTFOLIO FACTSHEET, PLEASE SEE BELOW



Portfolio Summary									
Instrument	Name	Currency	6m	1y	3y	5y	Hist. Yield	Portfolio Expense	FE fundinfo Risk Score
Portfolio	PenLife 70 - Spring 2026	GBP	5.35	18.09	53.27	68.32	2.16	0.54	66
Benchmark	UT Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares - Dec 89	GBP	2.02	10.06	28.79	29.07	-	-	58

Performance figures to last price date

Portfolio Expense - The portfolio expense is calculated using the weighted value of the Ongoing Costs Ex Ante of the portfolio constituents. Where the Ongoing Costs Ex Ante is not available the OCF is used, and where this is not available the TER is used.

Please note: Historic yield figures will only be provided for funds with at least 12 months of performance history.

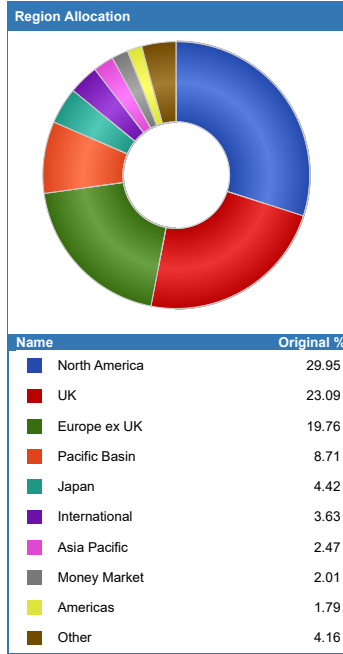
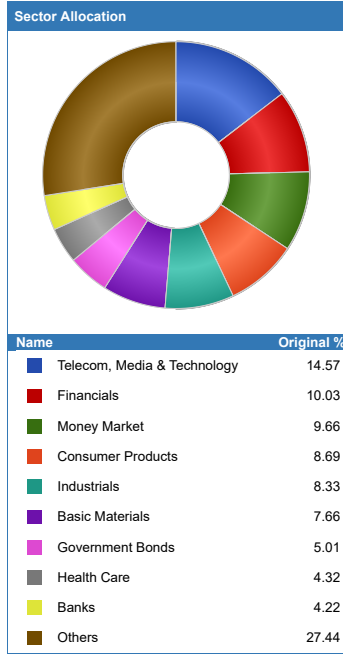
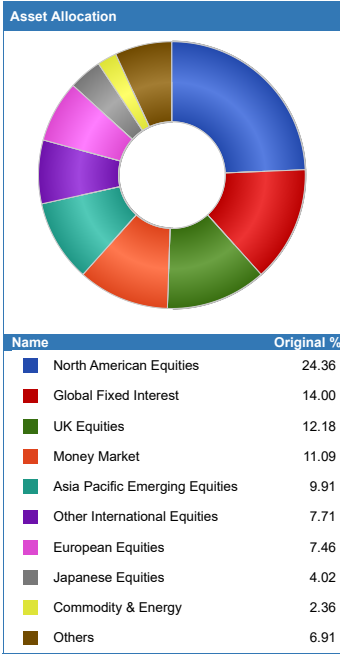
Portfolio Composition		1 Year					3 Years			FE fundinfo Crown Rating
Fund Manager	Name	Original % Holding	Hist. Yield	Perf.	Est. Contrb	Qtl	Perf.	Est. Contrb	Qtl	
Valu-Trac Investment Management	Avastra Global Diversified Assets GBP Acc A£ - Nov 10	15.50	1.25	13.10	2.03		24.37	3.78		★★★★
Columbia Threadneedle Investments**	North American Equity 3 Acc - Jan 95	7.00	0.61	12.10	0.85	2	63.63	4.45	1	★★★★
Fidelity International (FIL Inv Svc UK Ltd)	Index US P - Nov 12	7.00	0.88	14.27	1.00	1	58.63	4.10	1	N/A
BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd	US Equity Income Inst W Acc - Dec 18	6.40	1.74	11.91	0.76	2	44.17	2.83	3	★★★★
Valu-Trac Investment Management	Munro UK Equity Income X Acc - Sep 07	6.30	3.07	21.09	1.33	1	50.76	3.20	1	N/A
Artemis Fund Managers Limited	Global Income I Acc - Jul 10	4.40	2.64	38.40	1.69	1	125.20	5.51	1	★★★★
Orbis Investments	Global Equity Standard - Dec 89	4.40	1.65	31.59	1.39	1	80.70	3.55	1	★★★★
Artemis Fund Managers Limited	SmartGARP Global Emerging Markets Equity I Acc GBP - Apr 15	4.20	2.77	35.03	1.47	1	76.90	3.23	1	★★★★
M&G UK	Asian I Acc GBP - Sep 73	4.20	2.65	28.78	1.21	2	57.19	2.40	1	★★★★
Royal London Unit Tst Mgrs Ltd	Short Term Money Market Y Acc - Jul 99	4.10	4.08	4.20	0.17	1	15.20	0.62	1	★★★★
Fidelity International (FIL Inv Svc UK Ltd)	Index World P - Dec 12	3.70	1.17	14.44	0.53	2	53.08	1.96	1	N/A
Liontrust**	European Dynamic I Acc - Nov 06	3.50	1.88	15.01	0.53	1	43.98	1.54	1	★★★★
Man Group**	Japan Core Alpha C Professional Acc - Mar 98	3.50	1.72	21.68	0.76	1	64.70	2.26	1	★★★★
Artemis Fund Managers Limited	SmartGARP UK Equity I Acc - Dec 86	2.80	3.31	30.22	0.85	1	79.62	2.23	1	★★★★
Invesco Fund Managers Ltd	Emerging Markets ex China (UK) Z Acc - Jan 95	2.80	2.13	37.58	1.05	1	71.60	2.00	1	★★★★
Ninety One Fund Managers UK Limited**	UK Special Situations J Acc GBP - Oct 88	2.80	1.92	18.80	0.53	1	74.99	2.10	1	★★★★
Jupiter Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd**	Monthly Income Bond U1 Acc GBP - Sep 04	2.50	6.45	5.16	0.13	2	24.98	0.62	1	★★★★
Legal & General UT Mgr Ltd	Strategic Bond I Acc - May 07	2.50	6.31	4.46	0.11	2	26.09	0.65	1	★★★★
Valu-Trac Investment Management	Avastra Global Fixed Income GBP Acc A£ - Nov 10	2.50	2.57	2.00	0.05	3	4.67	0.12	3	★★★★
Artemis Fund Managers Limited	SmartGARP European Equity I Acc - Mar 01	2.10	3.00	28.94	0.61	1	96.21	2.02	1	★★★★
Currency	Pounds Sterling - Jan 70	2.00	-	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		N/A
abrdn Fund Managers Limited	Short Duration Global Inflation-Linked Bond Inst Acc GBP - Sep 14	1.50	3.57	4.18	0.06	2	10.97	0.16	1	★★★★
PIMCO Global Advisors(IRL) Ltd	Global Bond Inst Hedged Acc GBP - Apr 03	1.50	-	3.43	0.05	2	13.65	0.20	2	★★★★
Jupiter Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd	India I Acc - Feb 08	1.40	0.50	-11.08	-0.16	1	45.25	0.63	1	★★★★
M&G UK	Emerging Markets Bond I Acc GBP - Oct 99	1.40	6.40	8.23	0.12	2	23.72	0.33	2	★★★★
Total Portfolio		100.00	2.16	18.09			53.27			
Selected Benchmark	UT Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares - Dec 89			10.06			28.79			

Performance figures to last price date, rebased in Pounds Sterling, ordered by largest original holdings.

Estimated contribution values are based on the percentage weightings being correct at the start of the analysed performance period.

Please note: Historic yield figures will only be provided for funds with at least 12 months of performance history.

** The history of this unit/share class has been extended, at FE fundinfo's discretion, to give a sense of a longer track record of the fund as a whole.



Top 10 Holdings

Rank	Original %	
1	ROYAL LONDON SHORT TERM MONEY MARKET Y INC	2.31
2	Cash	2.00
3	XTRACKERS II GBP RATE SWAP UCITS ETF 1D GBP	1.31
4	NVIDIA CORPORATION	1.28
5	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD	1.22
6	APPLE INC.	1.07
7	WISDOMTREE COMMODITY SECURITIES LIMITED - WISDOMTREE COPPER UNHEDGED USD	0.80
8	ALPHABET INC.	0.79
9	WISDOMTREE COMMODITY SECURITIES LIMITED - ORBIS GLOBAL BALANCED STANDARD	0.79
10		0.78

Portfolio breakdown and holdings are based on latest published data for each constituent which may have different publication dates. Portfolio start date is required to calculate current weightings.

