Simple and effective ways to create a financial roadmap

Together.
A better future.

AFH wealth management

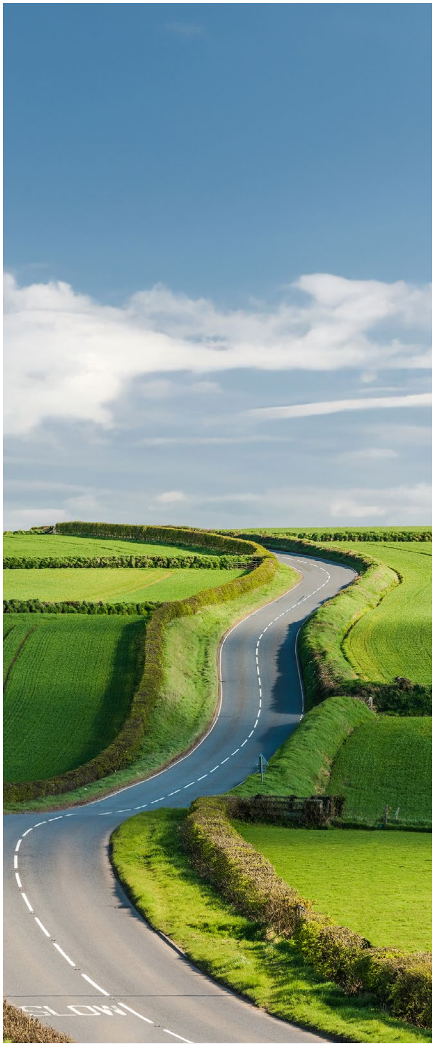
Introduction

While having money can provide a comfortable lifestyle, it doesn't necessarily provide peace of mind. No matter how much wealth you have, if you're not in control of your money it could create feelings of stress and anxiety.

As the old adage goes, 'you can't buy happiness'. While this might be true, you can take charge of your wealth, which could provide peace of mind and put a smile on your face.

If you're looking to get on top of your money, creating a financial roadmap is likely to be an excellent start. Doing so could help you get to grips with your wealth and achieve your future aspirations.

Producing a roadmap could help you to work out how best to achieve your goals and allow you to get on with life while looking forward to the future you want. Read on to discover how best to create an effective plan so that you can enjoy financial peace of mind.



A financial plan should consider every aspect of your wealth

When it comes to your money, genuine peace of mind is normally achieved by looking at your finances 'holistically'. This means considering every aspect of your wealth and how they dovetail into each other, instead of concentrating on a particular area of concern.

This could bring together the following areas of your finances:

- savings and investments
- pensions and retirement
- your home and other property
- ISAs and tax efficient assets
- valuable collectables, such as art
- tax-efficiency and Inheritance Tax (IHT).

With a holistic approach you'll have a clearer and more accurate understanding of where you are financially, and how far away you might be from achieving your financial aspirations. Moreover, it helps to ensure that any solution you use for one area of your wealth doesn't then create an unexpected problem in another.

This is why AFH's carefully designed and distinctive six-step process starts with our advisers taking the time to understand you and every aspect of your financial situation. By doing this, you can be assured that your wealth will always be in safe hands.

To learn more about our six-step process, please read our Introduction to AFH.

A financial action plan helps you to identify, your goals

Once you understand your financial situation, the next step is to create a plan to help you to identify your wealth needs and any objectives you might have.

This provides a roadmap that could help you to achieve your long-term aspirations while meeting your short-term needs. It could also help to reduce stress and boost your wellbeing, as you'll know that your finances are all in hand and that you're on track to enjoy a brighter tomorrow.

Creating a financial blueprint also lets you see the progress you're making, meaning you're much more likely to stick to it. Additionally, you'll be able to see if you're not on track to meet your goals so that you can take action to rectify the situation.

That's why our six-step process offers clients the opportunity to have regular reviews, as these provide important updates on your investments' performance, and whether they're on track to achieve your goals. Furthermore, they also provide an opportunity to ensure your existing investments are still the most appropriate for you.

Your long-term strategy needs to be flexible

It's important to remember that over the long-term, your situation is likely to change. Whether planned or unexpected, it's vital to update your financial plan as and when changes happen, so that you can maximise any opportunity they present.

These events could include:

- getting married or entering a civil partnership
- gaining a significant promotion at work
- moving house or doing work to your home
- having a child or grandchild
- getting divorced or separated
- the death of someone close
- losing your job or deciding to work part time.

There are other factors that you also need to consider

It's not only changes in your life that have the potential to impact your finances, as any of the following could also affect them:

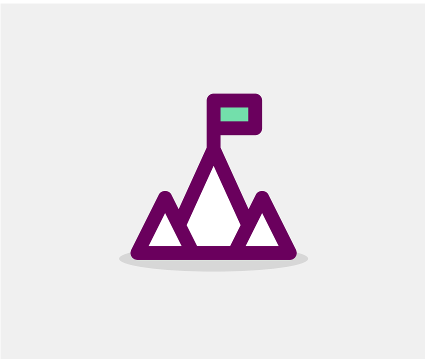
- geopolitical events
- stock market movements
- the global economy
- ever changing tax regulations
- inflation, which is the rising cost of living.

As these have the potential to reduce the value of your money, it's important to revisit your plan to ensure it's on course to achieve the outcomes you want. This is why working with a financial adviser can be a shrewd option, as they can explain how stock market movements and global events could affect your wealth.

As AFH has been built on providing clear and jargon-free advice, you'll understand the risks and opportunities your money might be exposed to, and how to make the most of the latter. Not only does this provide you with the assurance that your money's in safe hands, it means you're more likely to make a decision you'll thank yourself for later on.

6 clever ways to help ensure your financial roadmap is a success

While creating a financial action plan is a powerful way to help you achieve your objectives, it's important to consider the following six points when doing so.



1. Set your objectives

Having objectives allows you to understand what you're looking to achieve and why you're taking the actions that you are. Not only could this provide clarity, it could also ensure you remain committed to your financial strategy if you're tempted to spend your money in other ways. Here are some important questions you might want to consider:

- what do you want to achieve in 5, 10 or 20 years from now?
- how would you like your lifestyle to look both now and in the future?
- how often would you like to change your car or go on holiday?
- are you looking to move to a bigger (or smaller) house, and if so, when?
- when do you want to retire and how do you see it looking?

2. Settle debts

It's important to prioritise the steps you need to take. While investing might expose your money to greater growth potential, a higher priority may be to settle any debts that you might have.

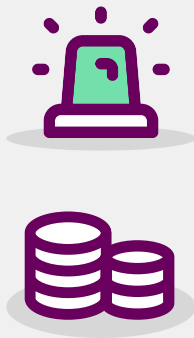
While reducing and managing debt is normally a priority, especially as it could save you a significant amount in interest, care should be taken. In some cases, lenders charge exit penalties if you settle the loan early, which could become expensive.

3. Protect your wealth

If you're unable to work due to a serious illness or an accident, it could have dire implications for your wealth. As employers are not obliged to pay those who are off work due to illness, you may need to use your savings, or any investments you might have, to meet your financial commitments.

Likewise, if you die, your family might not be able to maintain their lifestyle and may even be forced to sell your home. Having financial protection could future-proof your finances no matter what the future holds.

4. Create an emergency fund

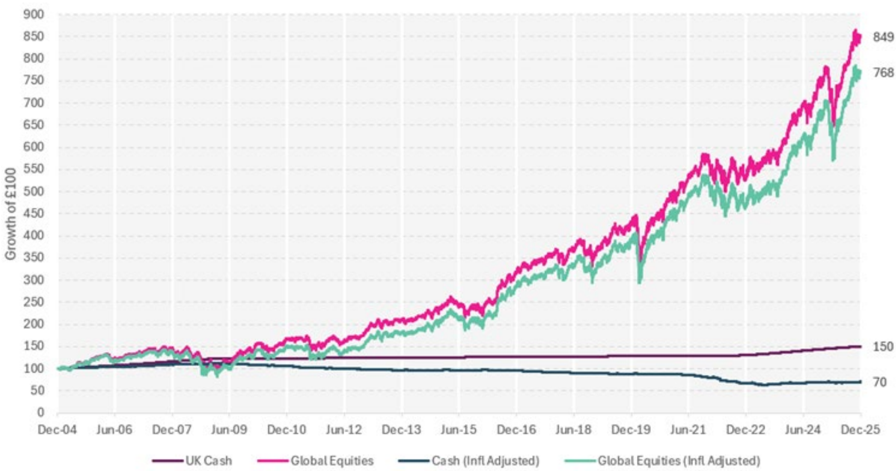


An emergency fund is money that's kept in an easily accessible account that can be used when life's unwanted events happen. This could include not being able to work after being diagnosed with a serious illness, or having to deal with an unexpected expense, such as replacing your boiler.

Having an emergency fund could prevent you from having to rely on credit cards or a loan to deal with the unexpected, which might be expensive when you include interest. Typically, your emergency fund should be the equivalent of three months' expenditure.

5. Consider investing

Historically, investing has tended to provide greater long-term growth potential than cash savings. This is illustrated in the following graph, which reveals the performance of a medium risk 60:40 multi-asset portfolio between 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2025.



The multi-asset portfolio, represented by the pink and green lines, provided significantly higher levels of growth than cash savings, even when inflation was considered. Inflation measures the rising cost of living over time.

Please remember that past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

6. Speak to a financial adviser

The world of finance is complex and full of jargon, which all too often makes it difficult to understand. This can result in costly mistakes that could decrease the value of your wealth.

A financial adviser can demystify the financial arena and the regulations that surround it, so that you can make more informed decisions. Additionally, they could help you to create a financial strategy that exposes your wealth to greater levels of growth potential while you get on with enjoying life.

While you can create your own financial plan, care needs to be taken

Putting together and maintaining your own financial roadmap is something you can do, however you may need to take care. Planning one requires a good understanding of investing and the world of finance.

You'll also need to keep yourself constantly updated to ensure your decisions are on the right side of current tax regulations.

Without a solid and up to date understanding of these things, you could expose your money to unnecessary risk of losses and face an unexpected – and potentially substantial – tax charge. Talking to a qualified financial adviser means you'll benefit from their in-depth knowledge, which could ensure you get the most from your money and investments.

Those who receive financial advice could be, on average, better off by £40,000.

Source: **International Longevity Centre UK**

At AFH Wealth Management, it's all about you

As a client-centred company that provides independent advice, we'll make sure we fully understand your situation before creating a financial roadmap that's individual to you. Whether you want to expose your money to greater growth potential to achieve a specific goal, or start planning for your retirement, we're here to help you achieve the best results.

Our advisers work closely with our in-house experts and researchers, so that they can provide recommendations that are based on robust and up-to-date information. As such, you'll be well placed to make better financial decisions.

Today, we're one of Britain's largest independent financial advice companies with Group client assets of £11bn* and in excess of 200 advisers. Yet we understand that size isn't everything, and still have the same values that we had when we were a fledgling company.

These are to put clients first, provide a first-class service and build long-term working relationships. As we remain as committed to these values you can relax in the knowledge that we'll help you get more from your money while you get on with enjoying life.

*Assets under Management and Assets under Influence combined for AFH Financial Group companies, accurate at January 2026. Figure is rounded to the nearest billion.

Get in touch

If you're thinking of creating a financial road map and would like us to help, please contact us:

mail@afhgroup.com

01527 577775.

mail@afhgroup.com
01527 577775

afhwm.co.uk

AFH House, Buntsford Drive,
Bromsgrove, B60 4JE

AFH wealth management