

working in partnership with you

to **ease**
your burden



barber harrison & platt
pensions assurance

expertise in your field

pensions
assurance

at **barber harrison & platt** we have a wealth of experience and expertise in audit and advisory services to occupational pension schemes

professional auditing & advisory services

For over 15 years, we have had a dedicated Pensions Assurance team acting for Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Pension schemes across the United Kingdom.

Increasing demands have been placed on scheme trustees in recent years meaning that sound, clear and timely advice is required from an experienced team of professionals.

We recognise this need and offer a full range of audit, accountancy and advisory services to trustees and their advisors.

This more recently includes an Employer Covenant Review service in conjunction with our Corporate Finance and Forensic teams.

independent, experienced & proactive

As one of the largest independent firms of chartered accountants in the North of England, Barber Harrison & Platt has developed a dedicated and proactive team acting for UK pension schemes.

a team of specialists

ready to
exceed your
expectations

led by Howard Ringrose, our specialist team provides services for over 75 pension schemes, which vary in size from SSAs to multi employer defined benefit schemes



Howard Ringrose
partner

- heads Pensions Assurance team with responsibility for approx 75 pension scheme audits
- leads Employer Covenant Review service
- responsible for internal pensions staff training and pensions technical matters
- also acts for portfolio of regional SMEs



Philip Allsop
partner

- member of Employer Covenant Review team dealing particularly with corporate investigations aspects
- acts for a portfolio of businesses, charities and not for profit organisations, including dealing with FRS17 aspects
- heads the firm's Forensic Accounting Unit



Helen Gordon ACA
audit manager

- chartered accountant
- over six years' experience in the Pensions Assurance team
- manages approximately 40 pension scheme clients with net assets of between £2m & £120m
- acts for a portfolio of regional companies



Susan Simpson ACA
audit manager

- chartered accountant
- worked on pension scheme audits for over eight years
- portfolio of pension scheme clients ranging from small self-administered schemes to schemes with net assets of around £100m
- acts for a portfolio of regional companies

creating business solutions

tailored
to your
organisation

core services - we are familiar with the issues that the sector faces and can assist trustees in the following areas:

audit and advisory

- focussed, risk based audit of annual accounts
- proactive communication during audit process
- extensive relationships with the UK's third party administrators
- detailed audit feedback for trustees
- value added and "minimum hassle" approach
- timely, personal and excellent value service throughout the year

accounts preparation

- statutory and non-statutory scheme accounts
- compliant with latest Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and relevant legislation
- proactive collation of required information from third parties, including investment managers

employer covenant reviews

- partner-led advisory service for trustees requiring assistance in assessing sponsoring employer's willingness and ability to fund defined benefit schemes
- initial desktop review service available
- in-depth review service including onsite visits and analysis of company management information
- timely, concise and focussed reports produced in conjunction with our Corporate Finance and Forensic teams
- advice on corporate transactions and their potential effect on the company's pension scheme
- extensive liaison with other professional advisers

complementary pensions services

- bespoke trustee training sessions
- payroll bureau service
- SSAS and SIPP advice through sister company BHP Financial Services Limited

accountable to you

providing
peace of mind
in a
highly regulated
environment

case studies - two examples of our proactive partner-led approach to pensions assurance work

audit client

background

- new client to the firm
- final salary scheme
- net assets £100m, 2500 members

As with almost any audit of a scheme of this size, the audit process identified certain weaknesses in controls and errors in the annual accounts.

We suggested to the trustees that the audit findings be presented to them at their next trustees meeting, something which did not occur with their previous auditors. We also suggested that the new trustees may benefit from a short training session on the audit process and risk management. This was gratefully accepted and following the meeting the trustees went on to plan further training sessions with their other key professional advisers and put a risk register in place.

employer covenant review assignment

background

- non audit client (construction industry)
- actuarial valuation showed deficit of £3m, net assets of £6m
- draft Recovery Plan required £400k per annum employer contributions
- employer indicated could only afford £100k per annum which only just covered PPF levy

We were asked by the trustees to conduct an independent review of the company's finances to determine whether a higher level of contributions could be paid and to assist with employer negotiations.

Our review commenced immediately and focussed on up to date management accounts and trading and cashflow forecasts. Although the company was experiencing cash flow difficulties, the nature and timing of its contract work and a deferral of capital expenditure allowed us to suggest a more practical Recovery Plan. This better suited the employer's circumstances and improved on the initial proposal to fund the deficit.

accessible
energetic
switched-on

the perfect
business
partnership
for **you**

with origins dating back to 1870, **barber harrison & platt** is one of the longest established and largest independent firms of chartered accountants in the north of england

forward-thinking & flexible

BHP's longevity spanning around 140 years is testament to the firm's ability to anticipate, adapt and meet the changing needs of its clients and the business environment.

recognised nationally in the top 60 chartered accountancy firms in the UK

BHP has recently grown to 15 partners with a team of over 160 modern professionals at offices in Sheffield and Chesterfield. The practice acts for many of the region's leading businesses in all fields of commerce, industry and regulated organisations.

The firm has in recent years been ranked as one of the "Top 60" accountancy firms in the UK. BHP is the only independent practice in Yorkshire and Derbyshire to achieve this accolade.

sector specialist partner assigned to every client account

With BHP you are guaranteed that an experienced partner who fully understands your organisation will take responsibility for all aspects of your financial affairs; this ensures that clients benefit from high-quality, professional expertise and as a result develop strong long-term working relationships with the firm.

full-service firm creating unique business solutions

BHP provides the full portfolio of integrated accountancy, business advisory, corporate finance and tax services; this means that BHP can create a bespoke package designed to meet each client's unique requirements.

BHP aims to provide the highest quality service to all its clients. This has earned the firm a solid reputation in the industry and is evidenced by quality control reviews carried out by both CharterGroup and Customer First.

CharterGroup, an association of leading independent chartered accountancy practices, provides BHP and its clients with an additional national network of support. Global assistance is available from BHP's membership of 2020 International.

committed to clients & future growth

BHP will continue to provide outstanding service and uphold its client-centred principles. The partners will maintain their commitment to innovation, investment in technology and expertise and continuous staff development, ultimately aiming to grow the business at a regional, national and international level.

services

audit & accountancy

business advisory

corporate finance

employer solutions

financial services

forensic accounting

insolvency

tax & tax planning

specialist sectors

charities & not for profit

medical services

pensions assurance

professional practices

trusts & estates

our enthusiastic team would welcome the opportunity to work with your organisation

for more information or to arrange a free initial consultation, please contact:

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head of pensions assurance
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creating business solutions

audit | business advisory | corporate finance | tax

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