



**Diary Date / Event**

Media Release  
8 October 2009

**Xafinity Breakfast Seminar: Regaining Control of Pensions**  
**11 November 2009, 8.30am, The Gherkin, To register call: 0207 680 2655**

Xafinity Corporate Solutions is hosting a breakfast seminar for Finance Directors and other finance professionals at The Gherkin on Wednesday, 11 November 2009 at 8.30am where guest speakers include leading financial and business journalist, Anthony Hilton, from the Evening Standard. The theme for the event will be Regaining Control of Pensions. A full programme and event details can be downloaded from Xafinity's website.

**Robert Hunt, Director, Xafinity Corporate Solutions commented:**

*“Successive Pensions Acts and the Pensions Regulator have placed increasing financial power in the hands of trustees. Decisions taken by trustees on pension scheme funding assumptions and investment strategy can bring unprecedented and unexpected financial risks to sponsoring employers.”*

*“With most final salary schemes being closed to contributing members, the funding and financial risks fall almost entirely upon sponsoring employers. This seminar will help Finance Directors and others understand those risks, how they can influence them and how ‘they can regain control of their pension scheme’.”*

ENDS

**Notes to Editor:**

- Download event program - <http://tinyurl.com/ydv2k67>

# Seminar Content

You are invited to come and join us to listen, discuss and debate the financial risks and challenges that sponsoring employers have to face in the management of their final salary pension arrangements.

This practical seminar, using real life case studies and risk diagnostic tools, will assist finance professionals in gaining a deeper understanding of the key risks, the areas they should be focusing upon, where they should be exerting their influence and why this could be so important to the future wellbeing of their company.

Areas that will be covered include:

- **Corporate input to asset strategy**
  - inappropriate asset allocation carries massive financial risks; knowing where and how to influence strategy is key
- **Funding negotiations**
  - how to achieve the optimum solution in discussions with trustees
- **Understanding your risks**
  - and how to reduce, mitigate or remove them
- **Company examples**
  - showing how the management of pension risks has impacted (negatively or positively) on the financial assessment of leading companies.

The seminar has been tailored specifically for the needs of finance professionals for whom pensions will be but one of their responsibilities. Our aim is for delegates to leave with the high level knowledge and tools necessary to regain corporate control of their pension arrangements.

## **Our guest speaker:**

### **Anthony Hilton Leading Business & Financial Journalist**

Anthony is Financial Editor of the Evening Standard and 2007 winner of the Decade of Excellence Award - the most prestigious award in business and financial journalism. A broadcaster and lecturer he has also written books on understanding finance and the City and is ideally placed to talk on 'the changing world of pensions and finance'.

## **More information:**

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## **Key questions to be addressed:**

- What level of risk are businesses carrying as a consequence of their trustees' current investment strategy?
- How realistic are current funding assumptions and what risks do they bring to businesses?
- What actions can sensibly be taken to reduce or remove risk?
- What are the key levers underpinning the financial dynamics of schemes and how can we monitor and influence them?
- What are the crucial areas in which employers should exert control and how is this best achieved?

## **You should attend this event to:**

- Engage in debate and discussion with professional peers
- Gain access to the practical knowledge of industry experts and corporate pensions specialists
- Understand the financial risks that current investment strategies and funding approaches bring to your business
- Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to regain control of your pension scheme.