Balancing risk and return: How not-for-profits are structuring their portfolios in 2025

By Perpetual Private

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Whether your organisation is already invested or considering options beyond cash and term deposits, understanding how other not-for-profits approach portfolio construction can provide food for thought for your own investment strategy discussions.

Over the past four years we have investigated how different not-for-profit organisations in our client base think about risk and return and how that has played through into portfolio construction.

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This paper covers:

- Analysis of 221 not-for-profit portfolios with $3 billion under management
- How objectives shape asset allocation decisions
- Shifts in growth and defensive asset weightings
- Trends in home bias and international diversification
- The increasing role of alternatives
- Four key questions for boards and committees to consider as part of investment strategy discussions

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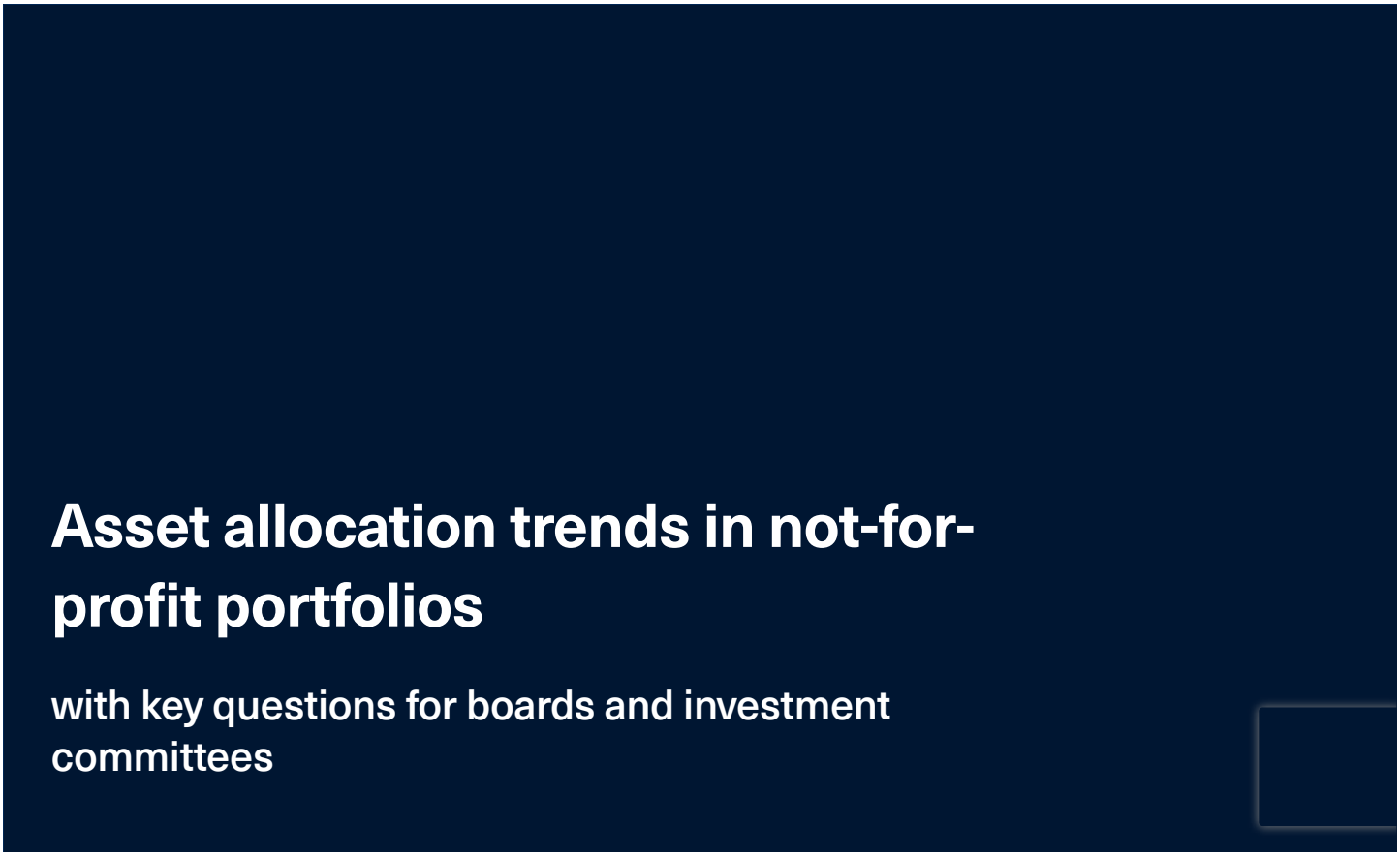

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