

Conference programme

Our 2026 programme has been shaped by conversations with members, partners and supporters, bringing together the issues, opportunities and practical challenges facing responsible finance.

We'll share experiences, hear directly from customers, explore opportunities for growth and partnership, and consider how we can build on 25 years of responsible finance.

Session timings and speaker details will be added as arrangements are finalised. The programme may be subject to change.

Book your place

Our thanks to our 2026 conference sponsors

We're hugely grateful to our conference sponsors for helping make the conference possible.



Monday 23 November | From 2pm

Learning from each other

Exclusive to Responsible Finance members & supporters

What we're learning about our sector

Insights, challenges and priorities emerging from across our membership

Tried It, Learned It, Share It

Sharing practical experiences, lessons learned and ideas others can put into practice

Evening | Informal members' dinner at House of Social

An opportunity to catch up with fellow members and supporters and continue conversations

Morning | The big picture

Welcome to Responsible Finance at 25

Celebrating 25 years of responsible finance and looking ahead

Why Responsible Finance Matters: Customers in their own words

Hearing directly from people and businesses supported by responsible finance

Growing Together: unlocking responsible finance in every postcode

Exploring opportunities to grow responsible finance and reach more people and businesses

Afternoon | Conversations and collaboration

Choose your conversation

Four parallel sessions | Delegates choose one

- **AI for Impact:** How CDFIs can be leaders in the responsible use of AI
- **Cybersecurity & Resilience:** Protecting customers, data and organisations
- **Beyond the Loan:** What actually changes customer outcomes?
- **From Best-Kept Secret to Essential Infrastructure:** Raising awareness of responsible finance

Bringing it back together

Place, Partnerships and Growth: where does responsible finance fit?

Exploring devolution, local growth and the role of responsible finance in strengthening local economies

Closing and announcement from Unity Trust Bank

Evening | 25th anniversary conference dinner

Welcome reception and 3-course meal at the Hyatt Regency. Celebrating 25 years of Responsible Finance together

Morning | Practical workshops and partner discussions

Four parallel sessions

Different options for members and stakeholders

For Responsible Finance members only

Delivered by our sponsors **Barclays** - delegates choose one

- **Portfolio Monitoring and Early Warning Indicators:** Using data across the lending lifecycle to monitor performance and identify emerging risks
- **AI in Practice: what's working now?** Practical applications of AI and automation in CDFI operations
- **Building Capability for Growth:** Planning the skills and capabilities needed for sustainable growth

For Responsible Finance supporters, stakeholders and partners

Growing Together: what does the sector need from partners, and what do partners need from the sector?

Exploring how funders, banks, investors and other partners can work with CDFIs to support growth

Mid-morning | Growing responsible finance: What does the next phase look like in each sector?

Choose your conversation

Four parallel sessions | Delegates choose one

- **Microfinance:** Creating a compelling investment proposition for UK microfinance
- **Personal lending:** Collective action to scale affordable credit sustainably
- **Enterprise lending:** A roadmap to scaling with purpose while maintaining impact
- **Social enterprise:** Exploring a Community ENABLE Fund for the social economy

Closing and looking ahead to the next 25 years

Lunch and final conversations

Conference concludes at approximately 2pm