Responsible Finance at 25: Building What Comes Next

23–25 November 2026
Hyatt Regency Manchester | 55 Booth Street West | M15 6PQ

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.

The programme may be subject to change.

Our thanks to our 2026 conference sponsors

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

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Monday 23 November | Learning from each other

Exclusive to Responsible Finance members and our supporters

Time	Session
14:00–14:30	**Arrival, refreshments and connections** Welcome and an opportunity to reconnect with fellow delegates
14:30–15:00	**What we're learning about our sector** Insights, challenges and priorities emerging from across Responsible Finance's membership
15:00–16:45	**Tried It, Learned It, Share It** Sharing practical experiences and lessons learned, followed by peer conversations about what works
16:45–17:00	**What are you taking away?** Key takeaways from the afternoon and a look ahead to Tuesday
From 18:30	**Informal members' and supporters dinner** An informal evening at House of Social to continue conversations and make connections

The House of Social is 0.8 miles from the Hyatt Regency at 10 Sir Howard Bernstein Approach, M15 4ND
Dinner is included in the delegate package, with a welcome drink on arrival
Additional drinks can be purchased via the app or at the bar. Dress code is casual

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Tuesday 24 November | Thinking big

For members, supporters and stakeholders

Time	Session
09:30–10:00	**Registration, arrival and refreshments**
10:00–10:50	**Why Responsible Finance Matters: Customers in their own words** Hear directly from people and businesses supported by responsible finance about their experiences and outcomes
10:50–11:00	**Welcome to the Annual Conference** Celebrating 25 years of Responsible Finance and looking ahead to what comes next
11:00–11:25	**Refreshments and networking**
11:25–12:20	**Growing Together: Unlocking responsible finance in every postcode** Explore how to build on progress in SME finance and create opportunities for responsible finance to reach more people and businesses
12:20–13:30	**Lunch and networking**
13:30–14:45	**Choose your conversation — four parallel sessions** *Delegates choose one of the following conversations:*
	A. AI for Impact: how CDFIs can be leaders in the responsible use of AI Exploring practical, ethical and responsible uses of AI in community finance
	B. Cybersecurity & Resilience: protecting customers, data and your organisation Understanding key cyber risks and practical steps to strengthen resilience, with access to fully funded follow-on support
	C. Beyond the Loan: what actually changes customer outcomes? What additional support alongside finance makes the biggest difference to customers?
	D. From Best-Kept Secret to Essential Infrastructure: raising awareness of responsible finance How can responsible finance become better known, easier to find and more widely used?
14:45–15:15	**Refreshments and networking**
15:15–16:30	**Place, Partnerships and Growth: where does responsible finance fit?** Exploring devolution, local growth and the role of responsible finance in strengthening local economies
16:30–16:45	**Tuesday close** Reflections, a look ahead to Wednesday and an announcement from **Unity Trust Bank**
19:00–19:30	**Anniversary drinks reception**
From 19:30	**25th anniversary conference dinner** Celebrating 25 years of Responsible Finance, including our anniversary awards presentation at the Hyatt Regency

25th anniversary dinner

- The three-course dinner is included for delegates who selected it when registering
- Two complimentary drinks will be provided at the drinks reception. Additional drinks can be purchased at your table. Dress code is smart casual
- Dietary requirements are submitted at registration. To update preferences, please contact Rob *(responsible.finance@eesolutions.co.uk)*

Our 25th anniversary awards will be celebrating lifetime achievement, social and community impact, innovation, collaboration and emerging leadership

Responsible Finance

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Wednesday 25 November | Building what comes next

For members, supporters and stakeholders

Time	Session
09:00–09:30	**Arrival and refreshments**
09:30–10:45	**Practical workshops and partner discussions - four parallel sessions**
	A. Portfolio Monitoring and Early Warning Indicators *(Members only)* Using data across the lending lifecycle to monitor performance and identify emerging risks
	B. AI in Practice: what's working now? *(Members only)* Practical applications of AI and automation in CDFI operations
	C. Building Capability for Growth *(Members only)* Planning the skills and capabilities needed for sustainable growth
	D. Growing Together: What does the sector need from partners, and what do partners need from the sector? *(For supporters, stakeholders and partners only)* How funders, banks, investors and others can work with CDFIs to support growth
10:45–11:15	**Refreshments and networking**
11:15–12:30	**Growing responsible finance: what does the next phase look like in each sector?** *Four parallel conversations — delegates choose one:*
	A. Microfinance: creating a compelling investment proposition for UK microfinance Exploring how to attract investment and support the growth of microfinance
	B. Personal lending: collective action to scale affordable credit sustainably Considering how collective action can expand access to affordable personal lending
	C. Enterprise lending: a roadmap to scaling with purpose Exploring sustainable growth in enterprise lending while maintaining impact
	D. Social enterprise: how do social enterprise lenders make the best of the BBB product suite? Exploring how social enterprise lenders can make effective use of British Business Bank products
12:30–13:00	**Closing the conference** Looking ahead to what responsible finance could achieve over the next 25 years
13:00–14:00	**Lunch, final conversations and departures**

Member workshops presented by BARCLAYS

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