

DRAFT FOR FEEDBACK



COLLECTIVE

a Community Benefit Society



Society Membership Pack

Community Feedback

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Welcome

Hello BD Collective community and friends,

What a year it's been so far! We're so close to finalising what BD Collective's new membership will look like and we need your feedback. In the following pages, you will find:

- Our *proposed* membership offer and benefits
- How membership works, including stewardship and decision making
- Our ways of working together
- A chance to give your feedback

What to do next

1. Read this pack
2. Share your feedback by **11 January 2026**
3. Join an information webinar if you have questions
4. Pre-register to be first in line when we launch in early 2026

Registering for membership when we launch means you become one of the pioneering member organisations to hold a share and a right to vote in our Annual General Meetings.

Thank you for your patience and participation so far. I look forward to co-creating a membership-led society that best represents what and who we are, as a social sector community in Barking & Dagenham.



Warm regards,

Amelie Tan, CBS Development Lead

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Re-introducing BD Collective

BD Collective started life in 2019 as a 'Network of Networks', bringing together local leaders to collaborate on shared challenges like food poverty and community wellbeing. Over time, these networks evolved and we learned that we needed more clarity and structure to keep making progress.

In 2024, we paused to reflect on what was and wasn't working. The [review](#) was clear: we needed to get organised. To strengthen Barking and Dagenham's voluntary, community, faith-based and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, we needed proper governance, a legal structure, and a way for local organisations to make decisions and hold resources together.

Now we're a Community Benefit Society, a member-led body that exists to strengthen the VCFSE through collaboration, coordination and shared ownership. That means:

- Each member organisation has one vote and an equal say in how we're run.
- We can hold funds, manage a bank account, and fundraise to support members.
- We're developing a set of member benefits to make collaboration easier and more rewarding.
- The Collective is guided by financial conduct authority (FCA) guidelines through our [rules](#).

This new model marks a shift from informal networking to a more structured, democratic way of working together. Through BD Collective we can amplify our collective voice, attract more resources into the borough, and build stronger partnerships with the council, health services, funders and others.

We're almost there. The foundations are laid but we can't move from planning to action without members.

With your involvement, we can make sure the sector is better connected, better resourced, and better able to drive change for residents and community as a whole.

Membership Benefits

COLLABORATE

Support our Networks

If you're leading or part of a local collaboration, get training, admin support from the Secretariat AND funding to cover some costs.

Make Things Happen Together

Together we can create game-changing collaborations & partnerships across the borough's VCFSE sector.

Meaningful Representation

You could represent VCFSE interests by taking up positions on strategic boards and committees (subject to criteria on page 8).

CONNECT

A Louder Sector Voice

Add your voice to an influential Collective that speaks up for the VCFSE sector in Barking & Dagenham.

Annual Get Together

A members-only event to celebrate progress, share learning, reconnect with each other, and hear from thought leaders.

Real Networking

Networking & gatherings with people doing work like yours. Share learnings, swap ideas, frustrations and solutions.

INFORM

Be the First to Know

Get the news that actually matters – local funding, partnerships, and opportunities to get involved – straight to your inbox.

Funding Alerts

Get early notice for grants, tenders and funding opportunities shared by commissioners, funders and investors.

Learning Opportunities

Free and low-cost training to develop your organisation & your professional skills, eg facilitation, public speaking, marketing, etc

This list of benefits is the starting point. It will evolve with the needs of the membership, our income, and your feedback.



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Membership Criteria

Who can become a member

This is your opportunity to be part of something powerful: a growing movement of organisations working together to create lasting community benefit. Our membership is only open to registered voluntary, community, faith-based and social enterprise (VCFSE) - a.k.a. social sector organisations - and unincorporated community groups that are based in Barking & Dagenham. Each member organisation needs to nominate a main contact who holds the voting right, and a secondary contact in case the main contact is indisposed.

How to become a member

To become a member organisation of BD Collective, all you need to do is complete a registration form and pay an annual fee. See page 10 or click through to the feedback form for a chance to tell us what you think the fees should be.

The membership fee is inclusive of the nominal share value of £1; each member organisation holding a share gets one vote at our general meetings. The membership fee will help pay for shared services and resources* that all members will have access to, as well as costs associated with our events, meetings and other members-only activities.

Be part of a network that champions collaboration, amplifies local voices, and turns community power into real impact.

*The types of shared resource paid for by the membership fee will be recommended by the Board and voted on at our general meetings.



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Networks

After consultation with existing Network leads, the core Networks are now based on these themes:

1. **Children & young people** e.g. young families support, youth initiatives
2. **Anti-poverty** e.g. financial literacy, fuel and food poverty, employability, housing
3. **Migrants support** e.g. supporting migrants, asylum seekers
4. **Sports** Supporting an uptake in sports participation for all community age groups
5. **Faith Response** For faith groups looking to respond to needs within the borough, working together to support our communities and residents regardless of their own faith or none.
6. **Women** Empowering women through resources & services tailored to female-centric issues.

Each of these Networks will have a dedicated WhatsApp Community group, moderated by a lead organisation.

How the Networks work

Networks will convene around funding opportunities, share data and learning, and deliver community benefits for the thematic area they're set up for. As a Collective we will work towards defining what else members can expect the Networks to do.

Funding and support for Network activities

BD Collective will set aside funds to cover Network activity costs, such as venues, refreshments and transport. We'll also create a clear process for how this funding can be used and accessed.

Building more Networks

We know that more Networks are likely to emerge over time, and some are already in discussion. Member organisations will have the chance to develop these as part of the Society.



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Representation

Supporting social sector voice to represent BD Collective

The BD Collective is sometimes asked to put forward representatives to sit on committees, boards and meetings about strategic work happening across the borough. These representatives will need to meet each role-specific eligibility criteria, and have the responsibility to represent the BD Collective's best interest and feedback to the membership. There will be a selection process to facilitate filling these roles.

If you were to commit time to a committee on behalf of BD Collective, we will remunerate you for your time, at an hourly rate of £35 per hour (rate to be reviewed annually). Where representation is carried out for a commissioned role, or specific to a project design or delivery, we recommend that this is paid for from the commissioned project budget to support time spent in project development.

Collectively setting new approaches of working with the social sector

As a social sector or [local civil society](#) infrastructure organisation operating in Barking & Dagenham, BD Collective would provide the platform to represent social sector member organisations, and advocate for fairer and sustainable partnerships with governmental, statutory and other types of stakeholders. For example, we encourage commissioners and our member organisations to factor in VCFSE colleagues' time and expertise offered through project development and consultation budgets.

For background work on how BD Collective has engaged with the council on these principles, please see our [update](#) on the draft Compact on Discourse.



[Click to go to feedback form](#)

BD Collective engagement principles

How would it look like to participate as a member organisation of BD Collective?

Welcomed and respected

BD Collective welcome and respect the diversity, experience and engagement of all members of the Collective. The Collective aims to support new and existing collaborations as well as working with members to identify areas for improvement and growth.

Different points of view

Different points of view can be very productive and provide opportunities for growth. In instances where members may find the different points of view challenging and in need of a support to collaborate productively, members can request support from a board member to help with facilitating a conversation addressing the challenges and possible resolutions

Clarity on roles during meetings

Apart from being the nominated representative of a member organisation in CBS meetings, oftentimes a representative of a member organisation could also hold other roles that may present conflicts of interest. As such, it should be a practice to clarify which “hat” an individual is representing while amongst other members during meetings and discussion spaces.

Stewardship of the CBS

The CBS will be a member-led organisation with one member one vote, which is stewarded through two layers of governance, with the board of directors providing formal governance, and with board and staff providing strategic and administrative steer, to support networks. All member organisations are guided by these principles.



[Click to go to feedback form](#)

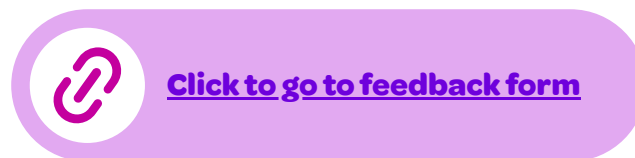
How to give your feedback

We are inviting all members of our social sector community to give us your feedback on the information outlined above. Kindly note that any changes to our society FCA registration require membership votes and are not in scope for this feedback.

We have created an online form so that we can collect everyone's feedback and suggestions, and will share learnings from your responses before we finalise the details as we progress towards our membership launch.

Thank you so much for your support and contribution, we're one step closer to launching the CBS! 😊

The feedback form will close by Sunday, 11 January 2026.



If you are a social / VCFSE sector organisation that is based in Barking and Dagenham and are interested to be one of our first members, **make sure you pre-register** to receive the invitation on our membership online launch.