



URBOND 2024

Annual Report



Charity Registration: 1184273

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The trustees present their report with the impact of the work and the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number: 1184273

Registered Office: City Buildings
Lake Road
Portsmouth
PO1 4BD

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, foundation model constitution, and constitute a Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and Appointment of a New Trustee

Future trustees must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

When selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the current board composition will be assessed to identify any skills gaps. The charity trustees will consider the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for the effective administration of the CIO.

Once a potential candidate is identified, due diligence checks must be conducted. This includes background checks, obtaining professional and personal references, and ensuring compliance with legal and governance requirements (e.g., conflict of interest declarations and eligibility checks).

Upon appointment, new trustees will receive a formal appointment letter outlining the terms and conditions of their role. They will also be provided with a copy of the constitution, the most recent impact reports, the charity's latest annual report and financial statements. Additionally, the new trustee will be registered with the relevant regulatory bodies.

Induction and Training of New Trustees

Upon joining the organisation, the new Trustees are inducted through spending time with the Chair of Trustees and the CEO to gain a better understanding of the charity's activities and operations. We encourage participation in training and development opportunities. The training provided for Trustees follows Charity Commission training guidelines.

This structured process ensures transparency, accountability, and the effective onboarding of new trustees to strengthen the governance of the organisation.

Risk management

The Trustees and the CEO have a responsibility to identify and review the risks faced by the charity and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud, mismanagement, errors, and risks to volunteers' health and safety while supporting the charity. The following categories of risk are regularly assessed: financial, operational, compliance and legal, reputational and environmental risks. Regular monitoring and updates to this risk assessment will ensure that URBOND remains resilient and continues to fulfil its mission effectively.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity was founded with the primary purpose of helping local communities to integrate and support each other in overcoming key issues affecting society.

The charity focuses on three core objectives:

Youth Development: Offering opportunities, wellness and pathways to success for young people in Portsmouth through various development initiatives.

Community Integration: Fostering community cohesion and advancing racial harmony, equality and diversity for the public benefit in Portsmouth.

Child Education: Delivering and supporting educational initiatives for Children in underprivileged communities in the Republic of Guinea.

URBOND's Youth Development initiative is designed to create lasting opportunities for young people, helping them build a brighter future under the following objectives

1. To provide a diverse and comprehensive package of positive activities.
2. Support young people with personal and social development activities and mentoring.
3. Create opportunities for volunteering and social action to broaden life skills.
4. Offer training and experiences with employers to facilitate pathways to high quality employment, education and training.
5. Celebrate achievements and placing young people in the lead.

Through its initiatives, the charity increased youth engagement and participation by an impressive 18.47%.

The Community Integration has been designed to build community cohesion and opportunity for families and community members who are isolated and experience deep inequality. The core objectives of this strand of work are:

1. To provide a safe and inclusive environment which is conducive to the development of communities, provide support to families and connect with services.
2. To support the community to integrate; bringing people from different backgrounds together to overcome stereotypes, racial injustice and build relationships.
3. To deliver a package of community led engaging activities which foster both mental and physical wellbeing.
4. To undertake community education support that equips ethnic minority people with confidence, skills and knowledge of how to navigate complex systems.
5. To promote activism in the community by mentoring and supporting members to positively contribute via social action and volunteering on specific initiatives/projects.

In the Republic of Guinea, the Child Education initiative is successfully advancing its mission by collaborating with local communities and partners to provide educational support and resources to children who would otherwise go without. The charity is committed to achieving its goals by raising awareness, garnering support, and securing funds for the following six key programmes:

1. Build a primary school in an area where one is not easily accessible to educate the children.
2. Support the recruitment of teachers for schools where there are shortages.
3. Work with communities to overcome the barriers (such as gender disparities or financial hardship) which prevent families from sending their children to school.
4. Offer vocational training to the locals so they can afford the cost of educating their children.
5. Work with partners, teachers and parents to deliver training and equipment to support girls' education.
6. Sponsor children and families and give them life changing support.

Significant Activities

In planning URBOND activities for the year, the charity carefully considered the Governing Document and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has presented significant challenges in sustaining the charitable activities. Despite these obstacles, URBOND has successfully organised a range of impactful events throughout the year.

Through the Youth Development initiatives, the charity is addressing critical challenges faced by young people in the community (such as those relating to crime, unemployment, health risks, etc.) by engaging them in positive behaviours that build their abilities and competencies. URBOND approach combines workshops, mentorship and hands-on activities that cater to their physical, social and emotional well-being, empowering them to overcome obstacles and thrive.

Career & Employability

URBOND's approach is designed to provide young people with opportunities they might not otherwise have. After 3 to 6 months of engagement, during which the charity builds a strong and trusting relationship, it creates personalised pathways to help them access employment opportunities that align with their interests, skills and aspirations.

In 2024, URBOND significantly exceeded its goals by providing valuable work experience to many young people. While the charity initial target was to facilitate **30 work placements**, URBOND proudly surpassed this, delivering a total of **102 placements**. These opportunities allowed young people to explore a variety of professions and career pathways, gaining first-hand experience and inspiration for their futures.

URBOND is deeply grateful for its partnerships with Tesco, SLR Marine Recruit, Richmond Motor Group, GRP Solutions, and the National Air Traffic Service (NATS), whose support has been instrumental in creating these life changing experiences.

Through these placements, young people gained essential insights into career options and workplace skills, helping to shape a more inclusive, skilled and prepared future workforce.



Youth Physical & Mental Wellbeing

URBOND is passionate about providing diverse sports opportunities for young people in Portsmouth and surrounding areas, helping them stay active and healthy both physically and mentally. The charity goal is to create inclusive spaces where youth can learn and enjoy Football, Basketball, Volleyball and now Badminton, regardless of their skill level.

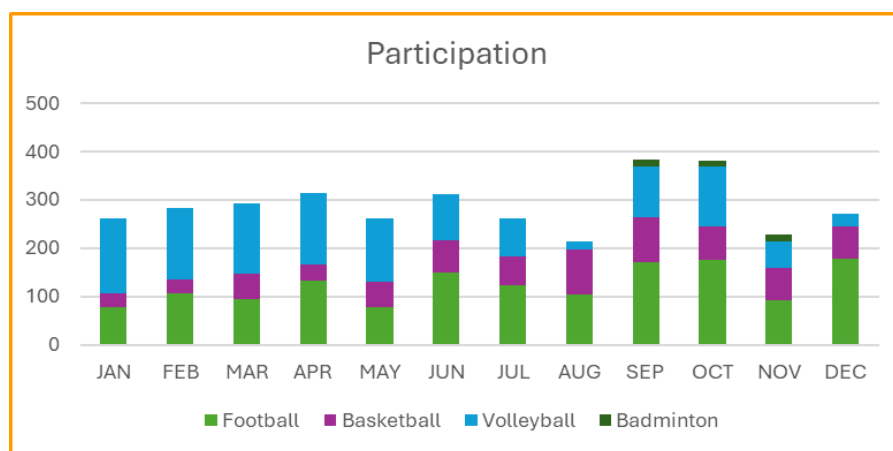
This year, responding to youth requests, URBOND introduced Badminton, attracting those less inclined towards contact sports and broadening the charity reach. The partnership with Portsmouth Force Basketball has also created exciting pathways for talented players, with many now embracing basketball as their favourite sport.

Football and Volleyball remain URBOND most popular activities. URBOND had seen a massive increase in participation in under-10 and under-18 football. The charity run one session per age group each week, with an average attendance of 50 young people across the two sessions.

As for Volleyball, URBOND run separate sessions for girls and boys, averaging about 60 young participants each week. To keep it exciting, URBOND organise tournaments, inviting teams from other cities to encourage healthy competition, teamwork and new friendships.

Sports play a powerful role in keeping young people active, healthy and away from negative influences. For many, especially in under-served communities, sports provide a structured environment where they can channel their energy into something positive. Being part of a team builds a sense of belonging and discipline, which reduces the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviours like crime or substance abuse.

In total 2,067 hours were spent engaging with young people in 2024. This programme continues to thrive, inspiring young people to stay active, build life skills, and embrace the values of inclusion, equality, and community spirit. URBOND remains committed to making sport accessible and enjoyable for all.



Art & Creativity

URBOND believes in the power of creativity as a vital way for young people to express themselves. Providing creative outlets is a powerful tool for both personal and artistic development, offering benefits that go far beyond artistic skills. It encourages self-expression, discipline and teamwork, while boosting confidence and emotional well-being.

URBOND has been fortunate to have a professional local dance teacher provides weekly dance classes to young people, opening new avenues for creative exploration.

In 2024, URBOND proudly launched its very own music studio. This facility gives young people the opportunity to play the piano, sing, rap and learn how to produce music. In partnership with local partners, URBOND offers music lessons and studio time, helping young people develop their creative skills. It's an incredible opportunity for them to learn how to write and produce music using professional production equipment and instruments. Music not only allows young people to channel their emotions constructively but also fosters a sense of belonging and teamwork through collaboration. Between June and November 2024, five young people recorded their own original songs in URBOND studio. At the charity youth Christmas party, young people who had benefitted from the music sessions delivered a breathtaking performance in front of over 200 people, including their proud families and friends. Watching them take to the stage with such confidence and hearing the thunderous applause and support from their peers was nothing short of inspiring.

In addition to music, URBOND introduced a new drama and theatre project as a trial run for an exciting partnership the charity is developing with the Kings Theatre. This initiative is helping young people improve their reading and creative writing skills, while also building their confidence and communication abilities.

Looking ahead to 2025, URBOND aims to expand its creative programmes even further for young people across the city. The charity firmly believes in the importance of providing opportunities for young people from all backgrounds and beliefs. As URBOND continues to grow, it is committed to ensuring its services reach an even more diverse audience of young people.



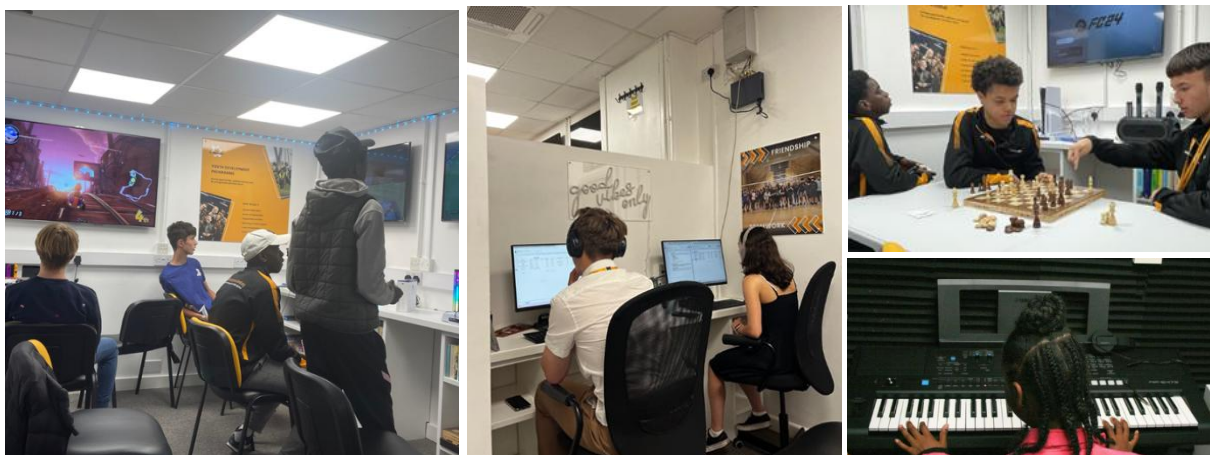
Youth Engagement & Community Activities

Over the past year, URBOND Youth Club has evolved into a dynamic and inclusive hub, providing a supportive space for young people aged 8–25, as well as for younger children when accompanied by an adult. URBOND commitment to fostering social connection, creativity, and personal growth has never been more evident. From expanding its facilities to offering enriching activities for the entire family, the Youth Club continues to thrive as a pillar of the community.

In 2024, URBOND significantly expanded its offerings in the Charles Dickens ward by securing two additional rooms, transforming them into spaces dedicated to music and creativity. The expanded facilities now include:

- A Music Studio for budding artists and musicians
- A Computer Room for educational and recreational use
- A Library/Study Area for academic support and personal development
- A Gaming Room for entertainment and social connection
- A Multipurpose Activity Space for various group activities

In line with the URBOND holistic approach to well-being, the charity provides nutritious meals at every session.



Key Milestones and Highlights:

- **Youth Club 1st Anniversary Celebration:** URBOND marked the first anniversary of the Youth Club with a celebratory event attended by community leaders. This occasion was a testament to the positive impact URBOND has made in the lives of local youth and families. Over 120 young people, parents and local authorities were in attendance.
- **Record Attendance:** URBOND Youth Club has seen record-breaking attendance, with up to 98 young people attending each session. As a result, URBOND has created dedicated spaces for different age groups to ensure a tailored and age-appropriate experience.
- **Summer Programme:** URBOND provided a memorable and exciting summer programme featuring outdoor activities and sightseeing trips. This initiative was particularly beneficial for families who may not have the resources to take holidays, ensuring enriching experiences for all. In total 720 children benefitted from URBOND summer programme.
- **Collaborative Safety Education:** In partnership with Hampshire Police, URBOND hosted safety education sessions, including workshops on knife crime awareness, equipping young people with the knowledge and tools to make safe choices.
- **Youth Club Christmas Party:** Over 168 participants attended the celebration, which spanned two days targeting different age group.

During school holidays, URBOND collaborated with local authorities and partners to deliver enriching activities for children and families. Some of the activities included sports, creative arts and crafts, educational trips, and group outings.

Throughout the year, URBOND has celebrated the achievements of young people and highlighted the importance of community engagement.



Youth Ambassadors

URBOND's team of Youth Ambassadors have been strategically selected to work with the charity, partners, and professionals to help empower other young people in the community. They support their peers in overcoming obstacles, building confidence, and developing resilience. In addition, URBOND Ambassadors work closely with the charity trustees and senior management to deliver URBOND mission of creating opportunities, promoting wellness, and ensuring success for young people and their futures.

Throughout the year, the Youth Ambassadors scheme empowers selected young people to help shape URBOND's youth services by organising events and introducing new ways of operating. Guided by staff mentors, these young people have become key decision makers in the development of the charity.

The Youth Ambassadors work in groups to manage four campaigns: Health and Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity, Opportunities and Community. All four campaigns embody the core values of Youth Development, and the Youth Ambassadors are at the forefront of ensuring these pillars are championed through events and activities. Each campaign submits quarterly presentations to their mentors, reporting achievements and outlining future goals.

This year, the Ambassadors visited the House of Parliament to represent the young voices URBOND works with and to experience firsthand what it's like to work in the Parliament.

They also hosted a LinkedIn workshop with professionals to learn how to use the platform safely and effectively for their future careers.

In April 2024, they participated in a podcast episode where they discussed the campaigns they are working on, the impact they aim to achieve, and what it feels like to be a Youth Ambassador at URBOND. This episode was broadcast on the charity's YouTube channel and shared across social media, reaching over 30,000 views.

At the annual Women's Conference, six female Ambassadors delivered inspiring speeches to an audience of 114 guests. Their presentations were not only powerful and motivating but also showcased their remarkable talent and professionalism in public speaking. Without a doubt, they emerged as the standout speakers of the event.

A new initiative launched in partnership with the Youth Ambassadors was "The Buddies Project." This programme paired each young person with a Youth Ambassador or an older peer, providing invaluable mentorship to foster skill development and personal growth.

In 2024, URBOND also launched the Intergenerational Project. As part of their Equality and Diversity Campaign, the Youth Ambassadors collaborated with members of the Portsmouth Deaf Club, hosting joint events, leading sign language workshops, planting and maintaining trees, running budget friendly cooking sessions, and much more. The project was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of bringing different generations together. A sign language clip posted on social media received over 80,000 views, helping to promote this incredible work URBOND has been doing with this new intergenerational project.

Later in the year, the Youth Ambassadors and the Deaf Club teamed up for a community clean up initiative. They worked together to tidy the area around the Deaf Centre and the Arundel Street roundabout, promoting environmental responsibility as part of the Community Campaign.

As part of their role, selected Youth Ambassadors had the honour of presenting the Portsmouth Youth Awards, hosted by URBOND at the prestigious Kings Theatre. The event celebrates outstanding young

people in the community, with nominations from youth organisations across Portsmouth. This year's awards ceremony was a fantastic success, attended by community members, local authorities and professionals. 473 people were in attendance, it made the front cover of the local newspaper, highlighting the event's significant impact.

During the summer holidays, the Youth Ambassadors hosted a Sports Day for young people across the city. The event was held in partnership with Portsmouth Mediation Service, Pompey in the Community and Motiv8, sponsored by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. With over 100 attendees, the event was a tremendous success.

To wrap up the year, the Youth Ambassadors planned their Christmas Party and organised a festive sports event to celebrate the season together.

URBOND's Youth Ambassadors have had a remarkable year, driving meaningful change and personal growth within the community. Their contributions have strengthened URBOND's mission of empowering young people, and URBOND looks forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive.



Parenting & Family Support

URBOND believes in offering families a holistic approach to empower them and provide the tools they need to improve their situations. The charity offers one to one support and advice on parenting styles, setting boundaries and improving communication with their children and young people.

This year, URBOND introduced the Parent Chit Chat Project, an initiative aimed at creating a safe and supportive space for parents to connect, share experiences, and seek guidance. These bi-weekly support group meetings have served as forums for discussing concerns, exchanging skills and knowledge, and exploring available community support. Led by parents, these conversations have been dynamic, ensuring the content resonates with their needs. This platform also allows URBOND to collaborate with professionals to deliver specialised workshops as required. In 2024, the charity hosted 21 parent meetings, benefiting over 200 participants.

In addition to the Chit Chat meetings, URBOND recognises that most families the charity works with are facing the highest rates of inflation, leaving many UK households financially vulnerable. In September 2024, URBOND successfully secured funding to provide food support to families. The URBOND Food Bank Project selection process carefully considers family circumstances, household size, income, and factors such as single parent households to ensure URBOND delivers the most effective support.

Beyond food assistance, beneficiaries are required to attend workshops and parent meetings aimed at helping them improve their circumstances. They also participate in yoga sessions designed to promote mental and physical well-being. This holistic approach is intended to empower families and support long-term positive change for both the beneficiaries and the wider welfare provision in the city. In total, 164 people were supported weekly through this programme.

URBOND's family support initiatives have had a meaningful impact this year, strengthening relationships and providing vital resources for families. By empowering families with practical tools and emotional support, the charity continues to build a stronger community.



Mentoring

URBOND works daily with families, children and young people experiencing socio-economic deprivation, complex social and emotional needs and challenging behaviours. Like adults, children of all ages can experience trauma, stress, grief, anxiety, depression and other psychological disorders, but they often experience and express these differently than adults. Unfortunately, the charity believes that these needs are frequently misunderstood, misjudged, or neglected and as a result, young people are often unfairly treated or labelled.

In 2024, URBOND held 317 mentoring sessions, benefiting 92 young people. These sessions are always led by the young people themselves and are based on their best interests. Topics discussed included family conflicts, relationships with peers, anger management, sexual orientation and education, self-esteem, and mental health, among others. While all discussions remain confidential, URBOND works in close partnership with parents and other professionals. All the young people the charity work with are made aware that any safeguarding concerns will be shared with the appropriate parties.

In addition to these structured sessions, the charity staff and volunteers have, over many years, been building relationships, engaging, mentoring, and consistently serving as positive role models for the young people URBOND support.

Access to Education

In 2024, URBOND successfully organised seven workshops aimed at empowering young people to achieve their educational and career aspirations. Through mentorship and career guidance, the charity covered a range of vital topics, including sexual health, teenage pregnancy, leadership, mental health, and CV-building clinics.

One of the standout sessions was the workshop on teenage pregnancy, delivered in partnership with Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust. This session attracted 27 young participants and focused on understanding the rising rates of teenage pregnancy in Portsmouth. The workshop addressed critical areas such as sexual health, healthy relationships, the influence of social media and peer pressure. It created a safe space for open and honest discussions, helping young people engage with sensitive topics and deepen their understanding.

In May, URBOND also collaborated with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to introduce young people to important health research initiatives, including the ELSA diabetes study and the GLAD mental health study. A total of 34 young participants attended this session, gaining valuable insights into ongoing health research and its relevance to their lives.

Overall, in 2024, the charity informal education initiatives reached 224 young people through collaborations with its valued partners. Looking ahead to 2025, URBOND is committed to doubling its efforts and extending its reach to engage even more young people in these transformative learning experiences.



As the charity looks ahead to 2025 and continue its commitment to youth development, URBOND proudly reflect on an incredible 2024. This past year, the charity extensive programmes positively impacted over 11,000 young participants across Portsmouth and the surrounding areas. With over 186 young individuals engaging with the charity's activities and support every single week. URBOND delivered 547 youth engagement activities and workshops, dedicating an impressive 2,067 hours spent engaging with young people. Together with its staff, volunteers and partners, URBOND is building brighter futures, and the charity is excited for all that lies ahead.

Since its inception in 2013, URBOND has made remarkable strides in promoting community integration in Portsmouth, bringing together 58,150 individuals representing 82 different nationalities. In 2024 alone, the charity successfully ran six community integration programmes and facilitated 187 activities, engaging over 6,611 participants and beneficiaries.

A recent end of year survey revealed that 87% of participants would enthusiastically recommend URBOND's community activities and events to their friends, family members, and colleagues, demonstrating the positive impact of URBOND initiatives.

Support During the Cost-of-Living Crisis

In response to the ongoing Cost of Living crisis, URBOND relaunched its foodbank initiative in September 2024. Over the course of 20 weeks, URBOND supported 164 individuals each week, providing them with essential food and groceries to help alleviate some of the financial strain they face.

Forum Meetings and Partnerships

URBOND's restorative forum meetings continue to grow in strength, with 614 participants benefiting from these collaborative sessions. Regular attendees include key local stakeholders such as Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, Portsmouth Magistrates' Court, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police, Portsmouth Women's Alliance, Portsmouth City of Sanctuary, and the Portsmouth Cameroonian Association. Together, URBOND and its partners are addressing key issues such as health inequality, building stronger relationships between minority communities and law enforcement, and supporting members affected by the Cost-of-Living crisis.

Furthermore, URBOND partnership with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has made significant progress in 2024. More individuals from minority backgrounds have engaged in research in the local community, contributing to a more diverse pool of data that will help ensure that support services are tailored to the needs of everyone.

URBOND recently became official Third-Party Reporting Centre for hate crime with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. We understand that there is work to be done when it comes to building relationships between the local community and the police. URBOND hopes to bridge that gap by offering support to young people and members of community when they are a victim of hate crime and help them with the process of reporting it.

Community Engagement

In 2024, URBOND continued its successful podcast series, providing a platform for community members to engage in meaningful discussions on issues of concern. The series has received positive feedback from individuals and organisations nationwide, with many expressing their appreciation for the content shared by URBOND. These discussions aim to foster a stronger, more inclusive community for all.

Fitness and Well-being Initiatives

URBOND's community fitness activities also saw significant engagement in 2024, with 4,751 participants attending various weekly fitness sessions and events. This reflects a notable increase from 2023, demonstrating the growing demand for health and fitness initiatives within the community.

URBOND Women's Group

The URBOND Women's Group continues to provide a vital platform for women and girls to come together, share experiences and support one another in navigating their daily challenges. In 2024, 157 women benefited from the group's services.

Socio-Cultural Events

URBOND socio-cultural events brought together 711 community members in 2024, fostering a sense of unity and encouraging cross-cultural understanding. These events play a key role in building relationships and creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all in Portsmouth.

Community Workshops and Seminars

In addition to the charity core programmes, URBOND facilitated community workshops and seminars that reached 214 participants. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for learning, skill-building and personal growth.



The Child Education strand, led by dedicated volunteers, has had an incredible year. It's been a milestone year for the new school being built in Koutaya, with the completion of the second building, including flooring, toilets and windows. URBOND is now on track to open the new school to the public in late 2025.

In 2024, five local women were recruited and trained through full-time employment. Together, they formed the URBOND Child Education sewing team, which now produces 1,000 reusable sanitary kits every month. These locally made kits are a game changer, helping to keep more girls in school and sparking generational change.

The vision for the sewing team extends beyond Dubreka, Republic of Guinea. URBOND aims to establish sewing centres across Guinea, supporting girls in underprivileged communities to access the education they rightfully deserve.

Dental hygiene, often an overlooked need in Guinea and many developing countries, saw significant progress this year. The charity educated 1,000 children on dental health and distributed 1,000 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste, taking a crucial step towards healthier futures.

- URBOND also reached a major milestone in menstrual health education, empowering over 3,000 young girls with essential knowledge about their bodies. Since 2019, more than 13,000 young girls have benefitted from URBOND menstruation workshops. This vital initiative will continue in 2025, in partnership with the British Embassy in Guinea. URBOND will expand its efforts to Kindia, Guinea's fourth-largest city, where the charity plans to:
- Educate 500 young girls on menstruation,
- Donate 1,500 sanitary kits to support them,
- Train 1,000 young boys on respecting and protecting girls,
- Equip 50 teachers and 150 parents to better support girls during their periods.

URBOND Training Centre also celebrated tremendous success in 2024.

- 20 local participants became certified, with 6 securing IT jobs.
- 17 new youth coaches were recruited, trained, and certified. These coaches are now deployed in schools across underprivileged communities, where they are mentor and inspire children.

Finally, URBOND is proud to report that 2,200 people benefitted from English and IT classes through the Training Centre this year, equipping them with valuable skills for brighter futures.

Volunteer Contribution

Volunteers are vital to the work of URBOND. Without their dedication, commitment and hard work, URBOND's great achievements would not have been possible. The Trustees, project managers, and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the day to day running of the charity is a success.



Recognition and Achievement

In 2024, URBOND has expanded its reach within the Portsmouth community, marking a successful year with increased event attendance and greater engagement with its programmes. The charity's continued delivery of key activities strengthens its support for, and presence within the local area.

- URBOND received a certificate of recognition from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner.
- URBOND was Shaping Portsmouth Community Award Winner 2024
- URBOND earned praise and endorsement from Portsmouth City Council leaders.
- Local MPs have continued to support URBOND's community efforts.
- URBOND won an award from the Portsmouth Tech and Cultural Summit for its transformative global work.
- There has been increased collaboration with local businesses.

This busy year has brought positive growth for both the community and URBOND. The charity success is thanks to the ongoing support and engagement from the community. URBOND looks forward to further partnerships and providing more life-changing opportunities to communities.



Fundraising activities

URBOND has seen an incredible success with its fundraising activities. The National Lottery Community Fund has been the biggest source of funding for the work URBOND do with the Youth Development and Community Integration in Portsmouth. Revenue was also received from Portsmouth City Council to deliver holiday activities and food to children on free school meals. Additional funds were granted by Portsmouth City Council to help tackle poverty across the city. URBOND also received grants from Sport England, Blagrove Trust, HIWCF, Garfield Weston, Hays Travel, and Cash for Kids.

URBOND has been fortunate to continue receiving sponsorship from SLR Marine Recruit and Richmond Motor Group. In 2024, URBOND welcomed a new sponsor, GRP Solution, to the list of supporters. GRP is working with URBOND not only to support children in the local community in Portsmouth but also to provide primary education to children from underprivileged communities in Guinea.

URBOND has also received funds through members' contributions and volunteers who travelled to the Republic of Guinea. Additionally, donations from the public have helped support the charity's objectives.

Future Developments

In 2025, URBOND will focus on expanding its reach, aiming to engage a broader audience and increase its impact.

- URBOND will enhance its efforts to help more young people achieve successful work and employment outcomes. The charity will provide more work placement and employment opportunities to support youth in building their careers.
- URBOND will collaborate with key partners to establish stronger, well-established relationships with secondary schools and colleges. This will add value to the learning experiences of students and create smoother pathways into adulthood.
- URBOND aims to create clearer pathways for young people to access opportunities.
- The charity will regularly review its performance against its Network Values and Shared Standards. It will address areas that need improvement and promote best practices where success has been achieved.
- URBOND will reduce its reliance on a limited pool of grant funders by diversifying its funding sources. This includes generating income through services, donations, sponsorship, and securing commissioned contracts, all while continuing to attract grants on a local, regional, and national level.
- URBOND has already formed strong relationships with numerous organisations. Moving forward, it will expand its network by bringing more like-minded individuals and organisations on board to positively impact the community and address the challenges it faces.
- Focused support programmes including leadership development, health education and entrepreneurship training.
- Use digital media and public events to advocate for community needs and influence policy change.
- By establishing and nurturing relationships with local businesses, URBOND will strengthen its position to make a meaningful difference in the community. These partnerships will provide opportunities and resources to drive positive change.
- URBOND will continue to revise its strategic plan, focusing on long-term sustainability. This includes exploring community and volunteer projects, corporate partnerships, grant applications, and marketing initiatives. Awareness campaigns will be launched to further strengthen relationships with stakeholders in both the UK and the Republic of Guinea.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to report an annual income of £398,366. This increase is primarily due to the success of grant applications, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts.

Accumulated funds have been strategically invested in materials, equipment, and resources to support the ongoing delivery of youth engagement initiatives and community integration activities. Notably, funds have also been allocated towards professional fees and the costs associated with sessional workers.

Tangible assets have been acquired in line with last year's projections. After allowing for annual depreciation, these assets hold a net book value of £36,131. Total assets, including cash at bank, amount to £220,471. Current liabilities include accrued income from the Lottery £7,987 and PAYE contributions of £35,019.

Significant fundraising efforts and investment in the Child Education Programme have delivered substantial benefits to families in Guinea, as detailed above. Plans are already in place to secure additional funding to build on these achievements.

At the close of the period under review, the Trustees are pleased to report an annual surplus of £68,256 and total assets for the charity amounting to £177,466.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have reviewed the reserves to ensure they are maintained at a level to ensure the charity can meet its objectives and obligations. These include providing ongoing support with salaries and expenses associated with the charity. The charity will also provide necessary funds and support children education and development.

The trustees have decided to maintain reserve funding at a level commensurate with between 4 and 6 months of current operational cost, being the sum of £100,000 which will provide the charity with sufficient financial stability.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Full name: Kingsley Digby

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signed: 

Date: 08/04/2025

Statement of Financial Activities

Income	Dec-24	Dec-23
Grants Received	275,328	194,702
Donations Received	52,571	12,452
Fundraising Revenue	2,729	8,900
Project Income	63,226	95,056
Sponsorship Income	5,372	4,877
Other Income	-858	6,732
Total Receipts	398,366	322,719
Direct Expenditure		
Materials, equipment, etc	19,169	14,374
Venue Hire	19,396	18,626
Professional Fees	4,240	1,532
Marketing	6,887	10,452
Project Specific Expenditure	102,095	107,719
Fundraising	2,138	5,800
	153,924	158,503
Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	244,442	164,216
Indirect Expenditure		
Gross Pay	105,979	99,853
Employers NI	4,710	-523
Pension Contributions	2,120	1,503
Casual Labour	27,400	14,061
Staff Welfare	707	1,931
Clothing, Uniform, PPE	233	2,032
Training and Development	1,094	1,728
Total Staff Costs	142,243	120,586
Rent and Rates	13,087	9,784
Heat and Light	168	
Travel and Entertainment		14,393
Travel - Motor Costs	1,198	6,451
Marketing	8,820	
Equipment: Sports and Projects		2,318
Equipment Expenses, incl Office equip	107	644
Software and IT Expenses	1,402	668
Depreciation	3,428	2,912
Insurance	1,012	251
Legal and Professional Fees	2,624	2,054
Printing, Postage and Stationery	72	388
Telephone and Internet	1,198	941
Repairs and Renewals	828	335
Total Other Overheads	33,944	41,140
Total Expenditure	176,186	161,726
Net Income/ (Expenditure)	68,256	2,490

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Dec-24	Dec-23
Current Assets		
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment and IT	17,480	9,046
Accumulated Depreciation	-6,872	-4,268
Fixtures and Fittings	4,097	1,526
Accumulated Depreciation	-728	-376
Motor Vehicles	22,625	
Accumulated Depreciation	-471	
Total Fixed Assets	36,131	5,928
Cash Funds, Cash at Bank		
Trade Debtors	-150	10,125
Current - URBOND A/C	53,639	45,109
Current - URBOND Guinea A/C	30,852	19,973
Reserves as per policy	100,000	100,000
Total Bank	184,341	175,207
Total Assets	220,471	181,135
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	1,973	
Accrued Income		49,391
Taxes and Other Statutory Sums	35,019	22,534
VAT	-5,986	
Loan - Minibus	12,000	
Net Current Assets	43,006	71,925
Total Net Assets/ (Liabilities)	177,466	109,210
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	123,459	89,545
Restricted Funds	54,007	19,665
Total Funds	177,466	109,210

Reconciliation of Funds

	Dec-23	Dec-22
Funds		
Total Funds Brought Forwards	109,210	106,720
Net Income	68,256	2,490
Total Funds Carried Forwards	177,466	109,210

Reserved Funds Reconciliation

	Unreserved Funds	Reserved Funds	Total
Income			
Community Sports	3,184		3,184
Community Workshops	750	6,000	6,750
Foodbank		19,095	19,095
Total Community Projects	3,934	25,095	29,029
Child Education	2,145		2,145
Child Sponsorship		5,372	5,372
School Building	9,583		9,583
Total Guinea Projects	11,728	5,372	17,100
Holiday (Out of Term) Activities	15,505	4,896	20,401
Social Events	6,984		6,984
Women's Empowerment	1,430		1,430
	23,919	4,896	28,815
Youth Activities	16,777		16,777
Youth Club	20,798	34,696	55,494
Youth Sports	9,197	40,079	49,276
Youth Workshop	15,000		15,000
Total Youth Projects	61,771	74,775	136,546
Combined Project Funding **	34,007	153,728	187,735
Other Income	-858		-858
Total Income	134,501	263,865	398,366
Direct Expenditure			
Materials, equipment, etc	19,169		19,169
Venue Hire		19,396	19,396
Professional Fees		4,240	4,240
Marketing	6,887		6,887
Project Specific Expenditure		102,095	102,095
Fundraising	2,138		2,138
	28,193	125,731	153,924
Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	106,308	138,135	244,442

Reserved Funds Reconciliation (cont)

	Unreserved Funds	Reserved Funds	Total
Indirect Expenditure			
Staff Costs			
Gross Pay	42,392	63,588	105,979
Employers NI	1,884	2,826	4,710
Pension Contributions	848	1,272	2,120
Casual Labour		27,400	27,400
Staff Welfare	707		707
Clothing, Uniform, PPE	233		233
Training and Development	1,094		1,094
	47,158	95,085	142,243
Other Overheads			
Rent and Rates	6,544	6,544	13,087
Heat and Light	84	84	168
Travel and Entertainment	0		0
Travel – Motor Costs	240	958	1,198
Marketing	8,820		8,820
Equipment: Sports and Projects	0		0
Equipment Expenses, incl Office equip	107		107
Software and IT Expenses	280	1,121	1,402
Depreciation	3,428		3,428
Insurance	1,012		1,012
Legal and Professional Fees	2,624		2,624
Printing, Postage and Stationery	72		72
Telephone and Internet	1,198		1,198
Repairs and Renewals	828		828
	25,236	8,707	33,944
Total Expenditure	72,394	103,792	176,186
Net Income/ (Expenditure)	33,914	34,342	68,256
Funds BFWD	89,545	19,665	109,210
Funds CFWD ++	123,459	54,007	177,466

** Combined Project Funding relates to income where a single sum relates to multiple Projects and does not specify the specific breakdown therein, being Lottery (£151,328) and Hardship Fund (£2,400).

++ Restricted Funds CFWD relate to ongoing Project expenditure for long-term projects as agreed within the original funding application

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the accrual basis in accordance with the SORP FRS 102 Charity Act 2011

2. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds can only be used in accordance with the Charity objectives at the direction of the Trustees.

Restricted Funds can only be used for purposes within the objectives of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or, when funds are raised for a particular restricted purpose.

3. Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

4. Trustee Expenses

The Trustees settled *out of pocket* expenses personally. No Trustees were in receipt of remuneration or other benefits arising from employment with URBOND.

5. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the reporting period.

6. Accounting, Independent Examination and Other Financial Service Fees

£1,846 has been paid for the period under review.

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an independent examination is required for the year in review. The Trustees have adhered to the General Directions and Advice provided by the Charity Commission to the best of their ability and knowledge.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kingsley Digby – Chair of Trustees

Name and Position



Signed

08/04/2024

Date



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
URBOND

On accounts for the year ended

8th April 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1184273

Set out on pages

ONE

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers and, an Affiliated Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 08/04/2025

Name:

Jonathan Kemp

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

MICB (Member, Institute of Certified Bookkeepers) 346038
Affiliate Member, Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Address:

TB3 Little Tapnag, Titchfield Lane, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 5PQ