

The Social Investment Readiness Charter

Supporting the Investment Readiness Ecosystem

A robust social investment market, delivering both financial and social returns, is required to help social ventures effectively respond to social need. The growth of an effective market will rely on an increase in the quantity and quality of investment-ready social ventures. As institutions all involved in investment readiness work, we believe investment readiness is best achieved through operating together along certain agreed principles. To support social investment readiness, we commit therefore to the following:

1. **Vision** – we aim to increase the number and quality of investment-ready social ventures to build a more robust social investment market in the UK that will better address social need.
2. **Transparency** – we will promote transparency in all aspects of our work in investment readiness, including with portfolio data (except where commercially sensitive) and impact metrics.
3. **Plurality** – we encourage a plurality of approaches and solutions in the investment readiness ecosystem; we recognise that over reliance on a small number of intermediaries could threaten the long-term viability of the market.
4. **Collaboration** – while we all have a unique role to play in this market based on our own individual missions and values, we recognise that through collaboration we will avoid duplication, align our approaches and ultimately achieve the collective vision.
5. **Long-term impact** – our preference within the investment readiness ecosystem is for funding mechanisms that minimise distortion of the social investment market's ability to deliver long-term, sustainable impact. We recognise that grant funding may be required in some circumstances to accelerate the development of the ecosystem.

The Social Investment Readiness Charter has been developed by a group of institutional social investors in the UK to reflect the increasing interest in investment readiness in the social investment market.

By signing the Charter, we as social investors publicly commit to adopt and implement these five principles, where consistent with our other organisational responsibilities. We also agree to evaluate the effectiveness of the Charter over time.

We encourage other social investors to adopt the Charter.



Signatories as of September 2012