Bromley Borough Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Report and Accounts of

Bromley Borough Foodbank

For the period

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

"a community led charity, helping local people to get back on their feet and improve their financial independence"

c/o Orpington Baptist Church
Station Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 0RZ
www.bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1167961

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Chair of Trustees' Statement

James 2: 15-16 'Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?' This is from the Bible and is a message for us all. While it is essential to address the cause of poverty, alleviating the symptoms has to be a start point. By helping those in need, we at Bromley Borough Foodbank not only provide some relief, we also demonstrate that there is hope; for without hope, people become hope-less, and hopelessness is a downwards spiral to despair.

More and more though, we are working with others to do what we can to attack the causes of poverty through ensuring correct and relevant benefits, support and advice is targeted to those in need. It sounds easy, but requires considerable knowledge and dedication as there can often be a complicated maze of formalities to negotiate.

Running through the veins of BBF; staff, volunteers, trustees, donors and supporters of all kinds, is a passion for poverty justice built not on charity, but etched into the culture of our country upheld by relevant Government and Council action. Over the years we have found amazing support for our work and a real desire and urgency for appropriate action.

We continue to develop relationships with individuals, churches, corporates, schools and others in order to highlight the issues that concern us. It is very clear that the public are genuinely concerned and compassionate about ongoing hunger and food banks, but are often overwhelmed and pessimistic that change is possible. Campaigns need to be clear in their focus and provide hope in order to generate traction.

What we are finding though, is that food donations have been reducing over the last couple of years as people find they have less money to buy the extras to go in our collection boxes. This means we are having to spend money to address shortages. We are working hard with supermarkets, which are very supportive of our work, to develop more opportunities to hold food drives and other ways to enthuse shoppers. Our volunteers are critical in these activities.

On top of this, grants from Trussell Trust (TT) are hard to come by and replacing with other fund providers is time consuming and at times frustrating. Without new fund sources it will be difficult to maintain our current offer long-term. That is a concern for all of us.

Our activities are, without doubt, only possible through the exceptional teams we have built up over the years and I want, as always, to thank them for their dedication.

Firstly, our volunteers, over 180 of them, who commit to using their time to meet clients, manage systems, channel enquiries etc. It is only through having such a large and committed team of volunteers that we can support all those who seek our help.

Secondly, we have a wonderful staff team that works so well together and maintains a highly efficient set of operations even in the face of new challenges. They have the necessary skills and experience and are always ready to put in the extra effort when needed.

Thirdly, as a trustee board, we have developed an open, honest and effective way to work together. We meet every 2 months as a board and in smaller groups to support our Foodbank Manager if needed and to work through strategic and policy issues. I couldn't imagine a better team.

And our referral partners are so important as they ensure clients are advised on a whole range of help available, which can avoid them needing a visit to a foodbank.

Foodbank funds around the country are being squeezed as the economic conditions in the country continue to tighten, at the same time there is the possibility that more people will seek help. We, at BBF, remain determined to continue our mission, feeding hope in our Borough, with help from our community.

Simon Lees

Chair of Trustees

Objectives and Activities

Bromley Borough Foodbank (BBF) is formed and shaped by Christian principles, in response to Jesus' command to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Math 22:39), and is linked to many churches in the Borough. It is a member of the TT franchise that has as its vision "a UK without the need for foodbanks", thus ending hunger resulting from poverty. Underpinning this vision is the BBF objective, to relieve hardship amongst people within the Borough of Bromley, in particular, but not exclusively:

a) Providing emergency food and essential toiletries to individuals and families in need;
b) Using such other means including the provision of support or signposting to relevant information and other advisory services supported by the churches in the Borough.

The clear aim of b) is to move our clients away from the need to use the services of a foodbank. We see this as fundamental to all we do.

The charity's affiliation to Trussell provides it with many tools, supply sources and in addition, TT has developed strategic links to a variety of organisations that enables a wide range of grants to be made available. Critically, anonymous client information is sent to TT so it can build a database across the UK in order to inform and challenge Government policy.

Our strategic objectives continue to develop as necessitated by changes in client conditions or to exploit new opportunities that present themselves. A particular growing aspect of the work of TT and its connected organisations is to work across different organisation in order to mobilise communities to become more involved in the elimination of food poverty.

We see this as a key aspect of our work as it is really important for people to understand why food poverty exists and how it might be eliminated. While government and council action is essential, it needs upward pressure to make this happen.

The main operating activities of BBF include:

- Ensuring supplies given out are appropriate to the people receiving them
- Signposting clients to appropriate professional help agencies
- Helping clients to navigate benefit applications and follow professional advice
- Running a number of distribution centres which are opened at different times during the week depending on the availability of the premises and volunteers
- Operating a warehouse for collecting, recording, sorting and organising distribution to the various centres
- Linking with agencies which are entrusted to provide food vouchers to clients
- Working with schools which recommend families needing BBF support

- Liaising with supermarkets which provide food or financial support
- Developing relationships with churches and schools that commit to providing harvest festival supplies to the foodbank
- Gaining funding through presentations to a range of organisations, making collections, applying for grants and running fund raising events

While day to day operations largely focus on treating the symptoms of poverty, it is very clear that without addressing the causes of such poverty, there is little hope of improvement. This is borne out by the client numbers we are experiencing along with many other foodbanks. Therefore, we are keen to develop relationships which have the power to target the levers of poverty.

Strategic objectives include:

- Networking with other local foodbanks to establish cooperating actions
- Presenting the issues of food poverty to schools, churches and other organisations
- Developing relationships with corporate partners
- Working with the local Council, when possible, to review relevant information and explore mutual cooperation
- Meeting with Borough MPs to discuss issues relating to our work
- Seeking new openings for wider cooperation
- Deepening our support for clients where we have resources to do so

Challenges, Achievements and Performance

Our end-of-year figures tell us that unacceptable levels of hardship continue across Bromley Borough. During 2025/26, Bromley Borough Foodbank provided 8,086 emergency food parcels to local people facing financial crisis. While some households are beginning to feel the benefit of easing inflation, the need for emergency food remains stubbornly high. Food bank provision is still 61% higher than before the pandemic, showing that too many people remain trapped in severe hardship.

Of the 8,086 food parcels distributed this year, 3,069 were provided for children. Overall provision fell by just 1% compared with the previous year, indicating little meaningful change in the level of need across the borough.

Behind every parcel is a person or family struggling to afford the essentials. Half of all referrals to the food bank were made because households could not cover their basic living costs. We also continue to see growing numbers of people returning for support. Compared with 2018/19, the number of people needing more than one food parcel has increased by 95%, suggesting that many households are experiencing longer-term financial insecurity rather than short-term crises.

This is not right. We regularly hear from people who feel overlooked, frustrated and unable to see a route out of hardship. Many are doing everything they can to manage rising costs while living on incomes that simply do not stretch far enough to cover essentials.

We know that Bromley Borough Foodbank is only one part of the wider response to food insecurity in the borough. Transform Bromley Borough supports a network of church-based food projects providing open-access food support and social supermarket provision. Other organisations, including CEYP in Mottingham and the Pathwaze project in Bromley, also provide vital assistance. We recognise that many people receiving support through these services are not reflected in our figures, while others experiencing food insecurity do not access charitable food provision at all.

There were some positive policy developments during the year, including the introduction of the Fair Repayment Rate in Universal Credit, which reduced the impact of debt deductions for many households. However, these improvements were offset by other challenges, including the continued freeze in Local Housing Allowance rates, the ongoing impact of the two-child limit and the disruption experienced by some households during the managed migration to Universal Credit. While the Fair Repayment Rate provided some welcome relief, the subsequent removal of these protections means that many households now face higher deductions from their benefits once again.

We remain concerned that many of the factors driving food bank need remain unresolved. Rising housing costs continue to place significant pressure on renters, while people living alone often face higher costs relative to their income. Changes to health-related support within Universal Credit from April 2026 may also increase the risk of hardship for people who experience illness or disability.

As always, Bromley Borough Foodbank's response is to meet people at their point of need while helping them access wider support. We are hugely grateful to the 90 referral partners across the borough who identify households in crisis and connect them with emergency food and practical assistance.

Our partnership with Citizens Advice Bromley remains a vital part of this work. During the year, more than 800 households received financial advice, support with benefits and debt issues, and help to maximise their income. This early intervention often prevents problems from escalating and can reduce the need for repeat food bank referrals.

We also value the many partnerships that enable us to offer support beyond emergency food. The Fuel Bank Foundation provides emergency fuel support for households unable to keep their heating or electricity on. Bromley Brighter Beginnings supported many families with school uniforms when household budgets could not stretch to cover these costs. Mammakind provided essential baby equipment, clothing, toys and consumables for families with young children.

Towards the end of the financial year, we secured funding through Bromley Council's Innovation Fund to launch a new partnership with Westmeria Counselling Services. The project will provide food bank clients with access to six free counselling sessions, recognising the significant impact that financial hardship can have on emotional wellbeing and mental health. As the project was only established in the final weeks of the year, we look forward to seeing the difference it makes to clients over the coming year.

We continue to look for opportunities to strengthen the support available to local people and are excited about further developments planned for the coming year. While emergency food remains an important lifeline, our ambition is to work alongside partners to help people build greater financial stability, improve wellbeing and reduce the need for food banks in the future.

None of this work would be possible without the extraordinary support of our volunteers, donors, churches, funders and community partners.

During the year, almost 200 volunteers gave their time, skills and energy to support local people facing hardship. From receiving and sorting donations in the warehouse, driving our van, running food bank sessions and staffing our helpline, to loading supermarket vouchers, acting as supermarket ambassadors and building relationships across the community,

volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Beyond the practical tasks they undertake, our volunteers are our greatest advocates. They understand the realities faced by people in crisis and help raise awareness of food poverty across Bromley, encouraging others to take action and support our work.

We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who donated food or financial support during the year. The generosity shown through our Small Charity Week appeal and Christmas campaign was inspiring, with individuals, churches, community groups and local businesses all playing their part. We are particularly thankful for the grants and funding received from organisations including Trussell and Sainsbury's, which have helped us continue providing emergency food and wider support to local people.

Our local supermarkets remain valued partners, not only through hosting collection points and food drives, but through helping to raise awareness of our work among their customers. The food and funds donated through these partnerships continue to make a significant difference.

Finally, we would like to thank the churches that host our food bank centres: the Salvation Army in Penge, the United Reformed Church in Bromley, Oak Community Church in St Mary Cray and Hope Church in Orpington. Their generosity in providing space, practical support and prayer enables us to serve local communities week after week. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and for the welcome they extend to the people who come through our doors.

Public benefit

As a charity for the relief and prevention of poverty, BBF only needs to satisfy the "benefit" requirement of charity law; the "public" aspect then being automatically satisfied provided benefits are identifiable.

The Borough of Bromley is relatively wealthy; however, there still exists a significant number of people and families within the Borough who are in need of emergency supplies of food and other essential items. Analysis shows that the main causes of this are low income, benefit changes, debt, no recourse to public funds and sickness. Much of this situation could be alleviated if national governments and local councils saw this as a priority and responded appropriately. Without foodbanks such as BBF there would be no help for those finding themselves in food poverty, a direct consequence of financial poverty.

The BBF centres are set up to provide a whole range of food items and other supplies that are carefully packaged into appropriate parcels. There are standards that specify the best mix of foods to provide nutritious meals for individuals and families of different sizes. These take account of dietary needs as well as ages and number of children. In addition, various household goods are provided where needed to help with hygiene.

All but a small proportion of the items distributed by BBF are donated by a wide range of individuals and organisations around the Borough. These donors and others often also make financial gifts to ensure BBF is financially secure. In addition, various grants are available from grant organisations or others, e.g., supermarkets.

Provisions are only given out on the basis of foodbank vouchers which, in order to provide the most appropriate help, are obtained from local agencies. If the agent feels someone is struggling to put food on the table due to financial hardship, they will issue them with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long-term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for the crisis.

BBF works with a number of different agencies, such as Citizens Advice, children's centres, housing associations, schools, social services, Hestia, health visitors and many others. They help identify the cause of the crisis, offering practical guidance and allow BBF to prepare suitable emergency food for the right number of people.

If we receive fresh fruit or vegetables, which we are unable to store, we can pass these items onto other food agencies.

From this, it is clear that the BBF is providing extremely valuable benefits.

Structure, Governance and Management

Bromley Borough Foodbank is governed by our Constitution and an agreed governance document and overseen by 5 Trustees. It is part of a nationwide franchise network of foodbanks operating under the umbrella of the Trussell Trust.

There are 4 distribution centres operating within the Borough and run by the BBF:

Central Orpington

Unit 7-9
Walnuts Shopping Centre
Orpington High Street
Orpington
BR6 0TW

Penge

The Salvation Army
172-176 Maple Road
London
SE20 8JB

Central Bromley

United Reformed Church
Widmore Road
Bromley
BR1 1RY

Orpington

Oak Community Church
345 Chipperfield Road
St Paul's Cray
BR5 2LJ

All these facilities are offered to BBF cost free except for a contribution to heating costs during the winter months.

In addition, a warehouse is operated from premises in Ashgrove Industrial Estate, Bromley, which is leased to us. It is used to collect donated goods that are then weighed, recorded and stored. This warehouse distributes items to the 4 distribution centres and is a key part of our operations. To facilitate this, we run a delivery van driven by volunteers.

We also have access to the basement of the old Orpington Library, which is used for storing long dated stock.

BBF operates with a salaried Foodbank Manager, Warehouse & Logistics Coordinator, Community Mobilisation Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and an Admin Assistant. Some of these roles are part time. In addition, there are over 180 volunteers who run the various distribution centres, work within the warehouse and provide specialist support in various aspects of our operations.

Trustees' Details

Mr Simon Lees – chair

Mr Stephen Walsh – secretary

Mr Duncan Aitkins

Mrs Jasmin Sen

Mrs Basak Aziz

New Trustees are provided with information about UK foodbanks and the Trussell Trust that supports BBF and introduced to the various BBF distribution centres and warehouse. They are made aware of any legislation that is relevant to charities and foodbanks, including training where appropriate, and of our governance framework, including the use of Trustee sub-committees. Trussell trust provides a wide range of documentation relevant to trustees' responsibilities.

To assist the Trustees in their role, we operate a Trustee Sub-Committee structure which expedites decision making and provides a clear framework in which the Foodbank Manager can work. These cover matters relating to People, Operations, HSE & Risk, Finance & Major Assets, each of which is headed by a trustee and normally include the Foodbank manager plus others as appropriate.

The Trustee Board meets formally every 2 months, with ad hoc meetings in between when necessary.

No trustee has received any remuneration or benefit from their position within the charity.

Risk management statement

We recognise that risk management is an important element of good management practice and we encourage an open and receptive approach to identifying, discussing and addressing risks. We accept that risk can never be fully eliminated but the scale of most risks can be reduced by appropriate action and where residual exposure exists, ways to mitigate can often be identified.

We are particularly conscious that our premises are run mostly by a wide range of volunteers, some of whom may only be with us for a short time, and this can bring its own level of risk for older helpers or less experienced members. In addition, the clients who visit our distribution centres are often anxious and stressed, which can produce situations where risks are possible for them and us. Regular conversations among the Centre Coordinators and the Foodbank Manager highlight any specific actions that are needed and any particular issues are reported to the Trustee Board.

We have developed risk assessment processes and actions are taken when risk reviews indicate it is necessary. In some cases, we have found it necessary to bring in consultants to help us update our processes and we continue to work through various action plans.

During the year we have looked particularly at emergency processes and procedures at our sites. We have checked that the 4 churches where we hold our distribution centres have appropriate fire and emergency procedures. Then we had a fire risk assessment for the warehouse, something we have had in the past without any identified problems, but this time the assessor highlighted 4 significant risks. We are currently in the process of having these items addressed and, in the meantime, have closed the upper floor of the building with the agreement of the assessor.

Our HSE & Risk Sub-Committee is responsible for reviewing the risk register, with high-risk items considered by the Trustee Board on a regular basis.

Financial Review

Bromley Borough Foodbank, as with all other organisations, needs money to carry out its purpose and maintain its operations. BBF does not have the facility to borrow funds so it can only spend what it has available in the bank. It's about surpluses and deficits rather than profits and losses. Additionally, being a charity, we are obliged to only spend funds on activities which are in line with our purpose and the Trustees must seek the best deal for all expenditure.

Unfortunately, our expenditure has continued to exceed our income. Last year our bank balance reduced by some £115,000 and the 2025/26 period has seen a further fall of £46,000. While we do not want to hold excessive reserves long-term, this rate of fund reduction is unsustainable.

We therefore have taken some time to consider how we might bring our finances back into balance with as little impact on our clients as possible. This included 2 elements; where we could reduce costs and how to significantly ramp up our fund raising.

On cost cutting, we decided we would reduce our contract with Citizen's Advice Bromley by 50% and significantly reduce the value of supermarket vouchers given to clients. These 2 changes are due to bring costs down for the current year by some £90,000pa.

On fund raising, we have put a great deal of effort into seeking and applying for various grants and other fund sources. This is tough and while we have been successful in some cases, we have also been disappointed in a number of failures. For the financial year 2026/27 we hope the result of this work will raise at least £28,000 with possible further successes.

Balanced against this is the fact that grants from Trussell Trust were last year some £70,000 but will fall to zero in the current year and while base costs are increasing, income from donations is down on previous years.

On the plus side, the Borough residents remain very supportive of the work of BBF as does the engagement of a number of local businesses which demonstrates the way the profile of BBF has significantly been raised through the activities of our community mobilisation.

In conclusion, everyone is feeling poorer at the moment with inflation, the knock-on effects of the 2024 budget and the pressures from the Middle East situation, which is why we are so very grateful for all the financial support we have received. However, as with many other charities, we are being squeezed by income stagnation and costs increases. Reserves can take us so far but what we need is to reignite donations. The challenge is there, we are determined to rise to it.

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

	note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Income from					
Charitable activities					
Donations	1	179,095	0	**179,095**	204,683
Church funding	2	11,538	0	**11,538**	9,463
Grants	3	24,692	64,661	**89,353**	121,398
Fund raising	4	46,276	0	**46,276**	0
Interest	5	28,978	0	**28,978**	21,723
Sub total		*290,579*	*64,661*	***355,240***	*357,267*
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities					
Staff	6	127,582	53,906	**181,488**	188,259
CAB contract	7	60,833	23,421	**84,254**	97,110
Property	8	34,524		**34,524**	32,412
Voucher scheme	9	65,000		**65,000**	109,000
Sundry activities	10	33,855	2,500	**36,355**	46,302
Sub total		*321,794*	*79,827*	***401,621***	*473,083*
Net income/ (expenditure)		**-31,215**	**-15,166**	**-46,381**	-115,816
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		462,134	52,420	514,554	630,371
Total funds carried forward		**430,919**	**37,254**	**468,173**	514,555

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
Current Assets				
Banks:				
NatWest current	20,834	37,254	58,088	45,394
NatWest saving	14,651	0	14,651	4,491
Flagstone Group	395,434	0	395,434	464,670
Net assets	**430,919**	**37,254**	**468,173**	514,555
Funds				
Unrestricted funds			430,919	469,049
Restricted funds			37,254	45,506
			468,173	514,555

** Warehouse lease contract until 15th July 2031*

** No guarantees have been given whereby any potential liability is outstanding*

** There are no debts outstanding secured by an express charge on assets*

Signed on behalf of the trustees	Signature	Date
Simon Lees		28th October 2026

Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation. The accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis.

b) Grants receivable. Grant monies are only included once the funds have been received. Where grants given are linked to specific activities or expenditure, they are accounted for as Restricted Funds.

c) Fixed assets. There are no significant fixed assets.

d) Reserves targets. See section on Reserves Policy.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Donations were disappointingly down on last year by some £25,000 as the cost of living continued to limit peoples' ability to donate. However, in addition to at least 300 individual donors per month, we benefitted from many partner corporations.

2. Church support by donating food items, space when needed and opportunities for community mobilisation, as well as funding, remains an important source of encouragement.

3. A number of grants were received during the year, most being for supporting specific staff costs, and where appropriate these are shown as restricted. In particular, through Trussell Trust we received £51,096 as a top up of the funding for our OLM employee and £21,374 as an extended payment for our CAB contract.

4. Fund raising became more of a priority during the year with 2 major successes under the umbrella of Big Give campaigns; £20,982 & £18,100.

5. A large portion of our funds are invested through the Flagstone Group and this has been a good year with interest earned of £28,978.

6. All staff are offered medical insurance cover and all are part of the Government Auto-enrolment Pension scheme.

7. The contract with Citizens Advice Bromley provides a significant skilled resource.

8. Property costs are mainly the leasing of warehouse.

9. The Voucher Scheme continues to prove very popular among clients as it gives them more choice of food available to them and a more positive experience of seeking help. However, we have had to reduce the voucher values in order to keep a control on costs.

10. Sundry activities include utilities, vehicle cost, equipment and general running costs.

Benefits not included in the financial report.

-Well over 180 volunteers undertook some 14,000 hours of unpaid work providing a benefit of at least £200,000.

-Various premises were again provided free of charge to be used as distribution centres and this is a further benefit of at least £15,000.

-Generally, all items given out to clients are donated free to the Foodbank, although occasionally emergency purchases are undertaken. During the year, approximately 100,000Kgs of food were distributed with an assumed value of £250,000.

Restricted funds - £

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Closing
TT CAB support	12,671	18,576	23,421	7,836
Client Support Officer	7,531	0	7,531	0
Fuel support fund	3,060	0	1,000	2060
TT OLM funding	29,159	44,575	46,376	27,358
Sainsburys vouchers	0	1,500	1,500	0

Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission expects trustees to decide, publish, implement and monitor their charity's reserves policy so that they can comply with their legal duties to:

- *act in the interests of their charity and its beneficiaries*
- *protect and safeguard the assets of their charity*
- *act with reasonable care and skill*
- *ensure their charity is accountable*

In practice, this means that trustees should:

- *develop a reserves policy that:*
    - *fully justifies and clearly explains keeping or not keeping reserves*
    - *identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential services for beneficiaries*
    - *reflects the risks of unplanned closure associated with the charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts*
    - *helps to address the risks of unplanned closure on their beneficiaries (in particular, vulnerable beneficiaries), staff and volunteers*
- *publish the reserves policy (even if not required to by law) and ensure it is tailored to the charity's circumstances. It should explain to funders, beneficiaries, the public and the Commission exactly what reserves are kept (or not kept) for and when they are to be used*
- *make sure that their reserves policy is put in place and operated*
- *regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the policy in the light of the changing funding and financial climate and other risks*

The Commission does not suggest what level of reserves should be held, rather indicating that it is for the Trustees to justify how the reserves have been set.

Reserves are there to be used in the event of either; a significant drop in income leading to an unsustainable funds flow or some unplanned large expenditure which drains our finance position.

In setting a reserves level for Bromley Borough Foodbank, there are a number of factors to be considered in order to provide the Trustees with the information needed to address the

issues suggested by the Charity Commission. These factors have a mix of hard and soft elements:

- Staff contracts
- The warehouse lease agreement
- The CAB contract
- Other possible contracts

Staff contracts involve a commitment to the employees which could be effectively managed within a reasonable timescale. This timescale has been set as 3 months and this implies a payroll cost reserve of £50,000.

The **warehouse** is leased for 10 years from 2021 with a rent review clause in mid-2026. The agreed position to manage this is to set a reserve level equal to the lease commitments for the time left on the agreement. This would suggest a current level of £196,000

The contract with **CAB** is renegotiated each calendar year so the current commitment is £43,000

Other contracts include utilities so this is covered by a reserve of some £5,000

Taking all this into account, we have decided to set a BBF Reserves Level at 31st March 2026 of £294,000.

As the main aim of the charity is to use its funds for the benefit of the those in food poverty, it does not intend to keep reserves beyond those prudently required to meet fluctuations in the timing of receipts and expenditures, to the ensure that operations are not disrupted by unexpected events and to enable necessary capital and other expenditures to be made when required.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BROMLEY BOROUGH FOODBANK

I report on the accounts of the Bromley Borough Foodbank for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 (3) (a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow procedure laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43 (7) (b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: .....

Name: Catherine Emma Gower Melia
(Non-serving Elder), The Temple United Reformed Church,
High Street, St Mary Cray,
Kent, BR5 4AX

Address: 34 Lee Church Street
Lewisham
London SE13 5SF

Date: 20th April 2026