



## ***What exactly is social enterprise?***

***Social enterprises are independent businesses that exist specifically for social and/or environmental purposes.*** Social enterprises make money just like any private sector business. However, profits are always reinvested into social and environmental purposes and the more profit made, the more can be invested in that purpose. Social enterprises have an 'asset lock'. Social enterprises should not be confused with private sector 'ethical' businesses, charities that do not trade or trade very little or public sector arms-length companies. This more-than-profit approach is used by: Co-operatives and Mutuals, Credit Unions, Housing Associations, Social Firms, Development Trusts and Community Interest Companies. Examples are: The Big Issue, Link Group, Kibble, The Eden Project, The Wise Group and Impact Arts.

## ***What is Social Enterprise Scotland?***

Social Enterprise Scotland is *The Voice of Social Enterprise* - bringing together social enterprises and their supporters into a strong campaigning force. We are your gateway to Scotland's social enterprise community. Social Enterprise Scotland is an independent, Scottish, membership-led organisation, built and controlled by social enterprises. Membership is open to anyone. We are based in Edinburgh city centre with a staff team of five. We are a registered Company Limited by Guarantee: SC294227. We were originally incorporated in 2005 as the 'Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition' and rebranded at the end of 2011 as 'Social Enterprise Scotland'.

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## ***Social enterprise and local authorities***

- ✓ Social enterprises are professional organisations, offering quality goods and services, competing in the open market against the best private and third sector providers.
- ✓ Social enterprises can design and deliver public services in partnership with you.
- ✓ Social enterprises can positively reduce demand on public services.
- ✓ Social enterprises increase local economic growth and create local employment - often with those furthest from the job market.
- ✓ Social enterprises contribute towards regeneration.
- ✓ You can utilise Community Benefit clauses and smarter procurement with social enterprise.
- ✓ Important to look at the whole picture, the bigger picture cost, the wider community benefit - not just the 'on paper' cost of services.
- ✓ Social enterprise should be integral not just an 'add on' to service delivery.



## ***Social Enterprise Scotland membership benefits for local authorities***

- ✓ Being an integral part of Scotland's innovative social enterprise movement - reaping the rewards on your journey - and helping you think in new and innovative ways about service delivery.
- ✓ Signposting you to your local social enterprises, sector organisations and key contacts.
- ✓ Practical help, support and advice on social enterprise - help you access the Just Enterprise programme, Ready for Business and other resources.
- ✓ Weekly member e-bulletin - comprehensive news and events, member news, Scottish and local public policy, media, sector news.
- ✓ Events, networking and trading - discount for The Social Enterprise Exchange (the world's biggest event), new free annual local authority event for officers and elected members, free Social Enterprise Awards and parliament reception, free local policy breakfasts across Scotland and free AGM policy event.
- ✓ A direct campaigning voice for you - to influence the design of services by government and parliament at all levels - local, Scotland, UK and European.
- ✓ Direct input into our policy-making regarding local authorities (e.g. recent social enterprise local government manifesto).
- ✓ Local and themed Social Enterprise Networks (SENs) - helping you engage and benefit.
- ✓ Social Enterprise Scotland is a member of the Business Gateway Stakeholder group and is involved with all business support organisations and many other influential networks.
- ✓ New Cross-Party Group on Social Enterprise in The Scottish Parliament that all members can attend.
- ✓ Discounts and special offers from other members.
- ✓ Helping you with good community relations and CSR - free publicity and marketing for your Council, feature in our specific public sector e-bulletin, seen to be supporting your local community and Scotland's social enterprises by the sector, government and media, Council name on all our publicity materials and website link, additional sponsorship opportunities.

[www.socialenterprisescotland.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprisescotland.org.uk)

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