

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 29 August 2019

## Edinburgh Social Enterprise Strategy

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
  - 1.1.1 endorse the aims of a refreshed strategy for Social Enterprise in Edinburgh; and
  - 1.1.2 notes the continuing support provided by the Council to Edinburgh Social Enterprise network and the active support of Business Gateway for the sector.

**Paul Lawrence**

**Executive Director of Place**

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## Edinburgh Social Enterprise Strategy

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides information on the refreshed Social Enterprise Strategy for Edinburgh.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 A report to the Housing and Economy Committee, Support for Social Enterprise on [21 March 2019](#) highlighted the development of a refreshed Social Enterprise Strategy for Edinburgh.
- 3.2 At the time, the refreshed strategy was not ready for publication and an action was noted for another report to be prepared in due course.
- 3.3 The Social Enterprise Strategy for Edinburgh “Enterprising Edinburgh has since been published in May 2019. This is in line with the [Edinburgh Economic Strategy](#) which recognises Social Enterprise and the Social Economy as key contributors to improved economic outcomes for the city, and further underlines Edinburgh Social Enterprise network’s role in representing the sector within the City Region Deal governance structure.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The Council is a key strategic partner of the Edinburgh Social Enterprise network (ESE) and an active participant in the development of a refreshed Social Enterprise Strategy for Edinburgh, “Enterprising Edinburgh” published in May 2019.
- 4.2 The strategy is available to download from the ESE [website](#).
- 4.3 In summary the strategy asserts that “Social Enterprise and the Social Enterprise ecosystem are key to a vibrant economy that delivers the best outcomes for the people of Edinburgh, increasing social value and improving lives”.

- 4.4 The strategy has three overarching objectives:
  - 4.4.1 to grow the Social Enterprise Community;
  - 4.4.2 to increase the sustainability of the Social Enterprise Community; and
  - 4.4.3 to substantiate how the Social Enterprise Community adds value and makes a difference in social and economic outcomes
- 4.5 Those who support the Social Enterprise Strategy are committed to investing in and reinforcing enabling factors, such as, but not restricted to:
  - 4.5.1 policy and research development;
  - 4.5.2 increasing and allocating resources;
  - 4.5.3 expanding networks and information sharing;
  - 4.5.4 seeking opportunities for collaboration;
  - 4.5.5 peer support, mentoring and training;
  - 4.5.6 providing specialist support and advice; and
  - 4.5.7 promoting and sharing best practice in sectoral governance and leadership.
- 4.6 The Council continues to support ESE by providing a £10,000 annual grant which supports the city's "Buy the good Stuff" campaign, and by linking initiatives such as Business Gateway in line with the Economy Strategy.
- 4.7 Business Gateway has benefitted from a full time Growth Adviser specialising in Social Enterprise, in post since 2013. Since then, the Council has supported 561 individuals, charities and community groups exploring social enterprise. Around 30 new social enterprises are assisted to start, and a further 300 receive regular support per year.
- 4.8 The Council's procurement practices are in line with Scottish Government guidance in relation to Small to Medium Enterprises (SME), third sector organisations and social enterprise so they can compete for opportunities.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The Council aims to continue to support ESE in the implementation of its refreshed strategy through:
  - 5.1.1 continued £10,000 grant funding to support "Buy the Good Stuff";
  - 5.1.2 continuation of Business Gateway Links and specialist adviser in the new Business Growth and Inclusion Service structure;

- 5.1.3 additional and enhanced links to Community Benefits and Corporate Social Responsibility through the new Commercial Development and Investment Service Structure; and
- 5.1.4 continue to review procurement processes and procedures, in line with the relevant regulations and Scottish Government guidance, with the aim of increasing opportunities for social enterprises. This will include the provision of lots or sub-contract opportunities in large contracts and the provision of project bank accounts on construction projects;
- 5.1.5 workshops with representatives from Social Enterprises will take place as part of engagement on the development of the Council's new procurement strategy, to be published in the spring of 2020. The procurement strategy will include a statement on the role of Social Enterprises in the Council's supply chain.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no direct additional financial impacts for the Council as a result of this report.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 ESE consulted with a wide range of partners, stakeholders and service users in the development of their refreshed strategy.
- 7.2 Each stakeholder now needs to identify how they or their organisation change the way they do business to:
  - 7.2.1 increase engagement with social enterprise through for example, mentoring, in-kind support (pro-bono expertise, access to office/workshop space);
  - 7.2.2 create opportunities for social enterprise by opening up supply chains or simplifying procurement processes;
  - 7.2.3 sharing risk for start-up and growth through investment, sponsorship or seed funding;
  - 7.2.4 develop shared values and responsibility for social and economic outcomes;
  - 7.2.5 collaborate with social enterprise through for example, MOUs to deliver Community Benefit or Corporate Social Responsibility outcomes; and
  - 7.2.6 be a champion for Social Enterprise and encourage business partners to purchase from the sector.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Support for Social Enterprise – Report to Housing and Economy Committee 21 March 2019](#)
- 8.2 [Enterprising Edinburgh; A social Enterprise Strategy for Scotland's Capital City 2019-2030](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 None.