

Action Plan Consultations

- Scottish Govt has facilitated a series of SE Reference Group meetings
- Sencot, Social Firms Scotland and Scottish Community Alliance has facilitated 7 SE Sub-Group (front line & member-led orgs) – with all recommendations fed into Scottish Govt
- Specifically for the new Action Plan –local consultation events have taken place in Angus, Argyll, Borders, D & G, Edinburgh, East Lothian Joint Thematic, Forth Valley, Glasgow, Inverness - with West Lothian, Moray and Pan-Ayrshire to follow
- Upcoming Cross party Group on social enterprise will consider new Action Plan on 4 Dec
- SVL national survey on next Action Plan closes 29th Nov

What people told us

- ❖ **Transparency** – decision-making process needs to be clear, open and transparent
- ❖ **Equality of Access** to funding via Action Plan
- ❖ **Additionality** - add value/ be complimentary to what's already happening
- ❖ **Communications Strategy** is required to support promotion/implementation
- ❖ **Alignment** with NPF & other Govt policy areas- Regen/Justice/Health/Employability/Circular Economy/Rural etc
- ❖ **Finance** –Smarter use of monies - pulling budgets, e.g. ESF (see above)
- ❖ **Subsidiarity** – local decision-making and delivery – wherever possible. There is concern that the Action Plan is being done to frontline SEs – not done with them.
- ❖ **Co-production – Sector-led, evidence informed via Census etc** (Bottom-up – not Top-down)
Some initiatives feel imposed.

Stimulating Social Enterprise

- *Enhance Peer Support across localities/market areas/specialisms– came up strongly in first AP & since (knowledge transfer/time bank idea?)*
- *Action Plan committed to ‘strengthen and extend SENs’ – it was not delivered.*
- *Attract and support young people in communities*
- *More local SE strategies (thus far 6 & more in development)*
- *SE Champion in every LA (e.g. NAC, SELAG) linking with SENs*
- *Mentoring by established SEs to start-ups*
- *Direct Investment to frontline SEs - sustainable & flexible approach to funding*

Developing Stronger orgs

- *Access to shared services (ICT, HR, Finance)*
- *Multi-year funding – direct investment for running costs/overheads*
- *Showcase successes, share learning, incl failure*
- *Need higher level of risk capital (underwrite small loans)*
- *Raising the Profile Campaign; strong, clear, consistent key messages; national level aligned to local implementation/resource*
- *Invest in workforce*
- *Invest in ‘collective leadership’ not just social entrepreneur*
- *Key challenges and opportunities should be identified, use the census to help shape strategy & actions – use this opportunity!*

Market Opportunities

- *Continuous improvements on buyer & supplier sides re access to public markets*
 - *Commitment to greater use/weighting of CBCs/supply chain*
 - *More use of Reserved contracts (for supported businesses)*
- *Public sector facing support with commissioners/procurement across public sector to complement P4P sector facing support*
- *RSLs linking up with more SEs & using their significant assets*
- *More investment in new approaches: PSPs & PSPPs*
- *More & flexible R&D investment pot across all priority themes*