

Social Enterprise Connect Scotland

As of 1st July 2020, Sencot and Social Firms Scotland will come together as a new entity – **Social Enterprise Connect Scotland**.

Over the last 2 decades, Sencot and Social Firms Scotland have worked to support the development and growth of social enterprise including social firms across Scotland. Together they have been instrumental in shaping the existing support infrastructure at both a national and local level. Currently the two organisations work with a combined constituency of over 1500 local social enterprises – made up of over 200 social firms and 22 local and thematic social enterprise networks (SENs) that support over 1300 social enterprises.

Social Enterprise Connect will now take on a more formal role as the de facto representative body for frontline social and community enterprises in Scotland. In taking on this role, it will:

- Continue to connect and inform social enterprises and social firms across Scotland.
- Facilitate and support social firms and SENs and their respective members
- Work in partnership with others to continue to develop the sector in Scotland and offer solutions to issues faced in local communities.
- Represent the interests and values of the frontline SE community in Scotland – in shaping policy and strategy with Scottish Govt.
- Seek to influence and contribute to the development of policies that add value to communities across Scotland.
- Raise awareness of social enterprise – through various channels – promoting good practice; and identifying issues affecting SEs and their communities.

Social Enterprise Connect recognises that social enterprise forms part of a wider movement – and will take cognisance of the wider and evolving operating environment. We will actively build connections and seek to collaborate with others - including national and local membership bodies - to ensure that we create strategic alliances and a powerful voice for our members that can help bring greater benefits to communities across Scotland.

Social Enterprise Connect will use the [Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise in Scotland](#) – as its benchmark for identifying and recognising social and community enterprises – in line with the Scottish SE Strategy and Action Plan – as well as numerous local SE strategies.

Social Enterprise Connect will build on the track record and relationships established over 20 years via Sencot and Social Firms Scotland – continuing to influence policy and represent the interests of the SE community across various Government departments and agencies, including – Third Sector Unit, Employability, Business, Fair Work and Skills, Health, Culture, Tourism, Justice, HIE, Scottish Enterprise, Creative Scotland, Visit Scotland, NHS Health Scotland, sportscotland, Museums & Galleries Scotland & Historic Environment Scotland.

1. Governance and Structure

Social Enterprise Connect Scotland is being set up as a Company Ltd by Guarantee with Charitable status – with effect from 1st July 2020. At present, and during this transition period, the activity of Social Enterprise Connect is being overseen by a Shadow Board – comprising of 4 representatives of

the current Senscot Board and four representatives from the Board of Social Firms Scotland. As of 1st July 2020, the Shadow Board will become the formal Board of Trustees.

The organisation will be a membership-led organisation – with full membership open to individual social enterprises; SENs; social firms; and other national or local membership organisations. Associate membership will be open to any other organisation (public, private, Third Sector) and individuals with an interest in supporting the development of social enterprise in Scotland. The organisation will absorb an initial membership of around 1500 social enterprises and social firms - with this number expected to grow within the first six months.

At its first AGM, the members will elect its Board of Trustees (12 maximum) – which will include representation from Social Enterprise Networks (SENs); social firms; individual social enterprises; as well as two co-optees from the associate membership.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of Social Enterprise Connect will be to represent and support social enterprises and social firms in Scotland (as per SE Census 2019). Our approach will reflect the aspirations and objectives as set out in the SE Strategy for Scotland and reflect the priorities within the SE Action Plan/s.

Our core functions will include:

- **Raising the Profile**
- **Representation and Policy Influencing**
- **Information and Support**
- **Networking, Peer Support and Connecting**
- **Intelligence and Evaluation**
- **Service Planning**

Social Enterprise Connect will use the [Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise](#) in Scotland as its benchmark for identifying and recognising social enterprises – in line with the national SE Strategy and Action Plan – and numerous local SE Strategies. In recognising that social enterprise forms part of a wider movement, Social Enterprise Connect will take cognisance of the wider and evolving operating environment and engage with other bodies as appropriate in order to maximise inclusive growth across Scotland. This includes a Joint Workplan with Social Enterprise Scotland – underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding – already agreed by both parties. The Joint Workplan will be overseen by a Joint Working Group involving senior staff and Board representation from both Social Enterprise Connect and Social Enterprise Scotland.