

# Business Development Support in Fife

## a guide to services for social impact businesses

### Making Fife the best place to do business

In response to a request for improved literature on the specialist support services, Fife Council's Economic Development team has produced a 'Guide to Services' for stakeholders and partners to help signpost social impact businesses to sources of support and guidance.

### Supporting the Creation and Growth of Social Impact Businesses

**Fife Voluntary Action (FVA)** is the Third Sector Interface for Fife. They provide a wide range of support to third sector organisations and have expertise in a wide range of skills and topics including governance, funding, legislation, policy, volunteering, managing people, planning and problem solving. For more information please contact: [www.fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk/about\\_fva.asp](http://www.fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk/about_fva.asp) or call 0800 389 6046.

**BRAG Enterprises** provides specialist support to individuals and groups who wish to start-up a Social Enterprise in Fife. With dedicated advisors they can help you through the initial stages of starting the enterprise. To book an appointment with a Social Enterprise Advisor call 01592 860296 or visit: [www.brag.co.uk](http://www.brag.co.uk)

**Business Gateway Fife** provides practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses in Fife. Business skills workshops are available to help with the skills required to run a successful business. An Expert Help initiative for specific projects to achieve business recovery or growth ambitions is also available for businesses. To register for the monthly electronic newsletter e-mail: [info@bgfife.co.uk](mailto:info@bgfife.co.uk). For information visit: [www.businessgatewayfife.com](http://www.businessgatewayfife.com) or call 01592 858333.

**Acorn Enterprise** is run by business owners who want to give back to aspiring new business owners. Acorn run several training events and programmes to help new business owners and student entrepreneurs' break down the barriers that prevent them from launching or growing a new business. For information visit: [www.acornenterprise.co.uk/](http://www.acornenterprise.co.uk/)

**School for Social Entrepreneurs (Scotland)** The School provides training in the form of specialised workshops and ongoing opportunities to enable individuals to use their entrepreneurial and creative skills to develop social businesses, social enterprises and charities that benefit the communities in which they live. For information visit: [www.the-sse.org/schools/scotland/](http://www.the-sse.org/schools/scotland/)

**Fife Council's Economic Development Team** provide a wide range of services to business including provision of Office space, Employment Land and light industrial units; access to business loans, assistance to access new markets; provide advice to increase ability to win contracts. The team can also use a variety of media outlets, both traditional and digital, to promote good news stories of businesses: [www.fifedirect.org.uk/business/](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/business/)



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**Market Development Programme** offers a practical and effective way for Fife companies to participate in events and trade shows. We organise group stands and visits for major UK and international exhibitions and conferences. Market development grants are available for Fife companies who want to attend exhibitions outside of Fife. For information contact: Dot Smith 03451 55555 Ext 492175 or e-mail: **Dorothy.Smith@fife.gov.uk**

**Supplier Development Programme** aims to assist businesses in Fife to improve their performance in winning contracts. SDP offers information, support, news, events and workshops covering procurement issues to help you unravel the tendering process. For information contact Dot Smith 03451 555555 Ext 492175 e-mail: Dorothy.Smith@fife.gov.uk and to register for events visit: **www.sdpscotland.co.uk/fife**

**Fife Business Voice** is an online panel of people who are involved in doing business in Fife who have agreed to give their views on the Fife economy and business related services. For information visit: **www.Fifedirect/businessvoice.org.uk**

## National Support Organisations

**Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS)** is the UK's largest and most experienced social enterprise support agency. Whether supporting or financing social enterprises, organising events or delivering innovative employability programmes to help people back into work, CEIS enables individuals, organisations and communities. For information visit: **www.ceis.org.uk/**

**Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS)** works with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and report on their impact. Their aim is to make evaluation valuable, relevant and proportionate. Our website gives access to evaluation tools and support. ESS work with funders to make reporting more useful and share learning about the difference the third sector makes. For information visit: **www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/**

**Firstport** supports individuals with great business ideas that benefit people, communities and the environment. They have free business support, resources and training. Firstport run a variety of programmes across Scotland to get more people from more places to start up a social enterprise. They offer two different levels of start-up awards to help you pilot and grow your social enterprise idea. For information visit: **www.firstport.org.uk/**

**Just Enterprise** is a comprehensive programme designed to help Social Enterprises and budding Social entrepreneurs achieve their trading ambitions. Supported by the Scottish Government, Just Enterprise is committed to the growth and sustainability of Scotland's third sector and their start-up, business support, business recovery, procurement, leadership and learning services are available to help you succeed. For information visit: **www.justenterprise.org/**

**Social Firms Scotland** is the national support body for Social Firms in Scotland. A Social Firm is a specific type of Social Enterprise where the social mission is to create employment, work experience, training and volunteering opportunities for people who face significant barriers to employment. For information visit: **www.socialfirms.org.uk/**



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**Social Investment Scotland** is a charity and social enterprise that provides loans to other charities, social enterprises and community groups across Scotland. SIS provide funding for social enterprises by borrowing money from a variety of sources, and lending it out at affordable interest rates. For information visit: [www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/](http://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/)

**Skills Development Scotland** support for employers includes tailored skills advice and funding for workforce development. For information visit: [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/about/](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/about/)

**Scottish Enterprise** Early-stage company or individual? Scottish Enterprise may be able to offer specific, tailored services to help you begin your journey: [www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)

## Business Support Networks for Social Impact Businesses

**Fife Social Enterprise Network (FSEN)** is an independent, non-profit membership organisation which promotes, supports and represents social enterprises in Fife. With the support of Fife Council, Business Gateway Fife, Fife Economy Partnership and other institutions, FSEN are becoming involved at a strategic level with the government to represent the needs and views of members. FSEN offers access to a strong member-led network, leverage to engage with wide-ranging institutions in the area and the opportunity to promote business via our website, membership network and online platforms. For information visit: [fsen.squarespace.com/](http://fsen.squarespace.com/)

**SENSCOT** builds and services a network to help social entrepreneurs become more effective. For information visit: [www.senscot.net/index.php](http://www.senscot.net/index.php)

**Green Business Fife** is an environmental network that provides an integrated support mechanism to assist Fife businesses in realising resource efficiency gains, minimising their environmental impact and identifying new business opportunities. For information visit: [www.greenbusinessfife.co.uk](http://www.greenbusinessfife.co.uk)

**Fife Chamber of Commerce** supports businesses of all sizes across the Kingdom. As a local, independent, organisation with a national voice (through its affiliation to Scottish and British Chambers of Commerce), it represents the interests of members and makes their views heard in the right places at local, national, UK and European levels. FCC provides a range of businesses services and information, and organises events to bring businesses together through an extensive programme of networking meetings, business seminars and training courses. For information and local contact details visit: [www.fifechamber.co.uk](http://www.fifechamber.co.uk)

**Opportunities Fife** is the partnership of Fife Council, Skills Development Scotland, Scotland's Colleges Fife, Jobcentre Plus, NHS Fife and Fife's Third Sector organisations, responsible for driving forward the employability and skills agenda within Fife's Community Planning structures. Their aim is to work together to tackle worklessness in Fife through effective employability measures and also help tackle related issues of poverty, income inequality and health. For information call 0844 855 2280 or visit: [www.opportunitiesfife.org.uk](http://www.opportunitiesfife.org.uk)



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**Fife Tourism Partnership's** vision is to: 'work with tourism businesses and communities to attract more visitors to Fife, to increase spend and to exceed visitor expectations'. The Partnership board is supported by six Local Area Tourist Associations which will help to develop local tourism initiatives and feed into the Fife Tourism Strategy. For more information visit: [www.fifetourismpartnership.org](http://www.fifetourismpartnership.org)

### Fife Council Regulatory Services

**Fife Council's Planning team** delivers a professional service to customers including processing of applications, breaches of planning and pre application advice. For information e-mail: [development.central@fife.gov.uk](mailto:development.central@fife.gov.uk), or call 03451 55 11 22

**Building Standards and Safety** explains how all applications must meet certain standards to ensure they are safe, save energy and provide facilities for people with disabilities. For information e-mail: [bss.info@fife.gov.uk](mailto:bss.info@fife.gov.uk), or call 03451 55 11 22

**Environmental Services** are responsible for public protection, food safety, trading standards and health and safety enforcement in a wide range of businesses. They provide advice and assistance to any new or existing business to enable them to comply with relevant legislation, including internet trading. Advice is readily available via: [www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk) or by calling 03451 55 00 22 or e-mailing [h&s.advice@fife.gov.uk](mailto:h&s.advice@fife.gov.uk) or [food.advice@fife.gov.uk](mailto:food.advice@fife.gov.uk)

**Trading Standards** regulate the quantity, quality and safety of goods, requiring traders to trade fairly and giving rights to consumers. They give legal advice and support to ensure compliance with the law and check the quality of goods and services, this includes educating traders on their obligations and intervening directly to ensure practices are improved. Their qualified inspectors of weights and measures test weighing machines, petrol pumps and other measuring equipment used for trade. For information visit: [www.Fifedirect/tradingstandards.org.uk](http://www.Fifedirect/tradingstandards.org.uk)

**Trusted Trader Fife** is led by Fife Council Trading Standards. It's a membership scheme which uses an online directory of local trades who have made a commitment to treat their customers fairly. Trusted Trader is designed to help customers avoid rogue traders, help customers make a more informed choice when choosing a trader and promote good business practice visit: [www.trustedtrader.org.uk/fife/](http://www.trustedtrader.org.uk/fife/)

**Business Rates** Non domestic rates are a property based tax which is collected by the council on behalf of Scottish Government. The Scottish Assessors give all non-domestic property in Scotland a rateable value, which is a legally-defined valuation of a property, broadly based on an analysis of annual rental values. The Scottish Assessors Association (SAA) website provides all Scotland Valuation Roll & Council Tax Lists on-line at [www.saa.gov.uk](http://www.saa.gov.uk). A range of relief (discount) schemes are in operation, which you may be eligible for more information visit: [www.fifedirect/businessrates.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect/businessrates.org.uk)



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Fife  
TradingStandards

