

Social Economy Board Industry Representation

Introduction and Background

Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most diverse city which is home to a vibrant community of social and co-operative businesses, community organisations, development trusts, the UK's largest and most robust Credit Union sector, and a network of community-controlled housing associations.

Social enterprises play a key role in addressing the social and environmental challenges facing the city, including tackling fuel and food poverty and financial exclusion; meeting housing need; improving employability; providing social care, early learning and childcare, and community transport, and improving health and well-being. Whatever their trading activity, social enterprises trade for the common good, addressing social needs, strengthening communities, improving people's life chances and protecting the environment.

Building on these strong foundations and understandings of the needs of the sector, GCC and GSEN have co-produced a social enterprise strategy following consultation with the sector and wider stakeholders. The strategy represents a key milestone in a journey to shape Glasgow's agenda for social enterprise over the next decade and has helped drive a clear vision for the sector, which is that:

'Over the next decade, we wish to see the social enterprise sector in Glasgow significantly increase its reach, scope and potential. We aspire to make Glasgow the social enterprise capital of Scotland, learning from, but also sharing, the experience and knowledge developed in the city and beyond, to develop a more compassionate economy that works for all our citizens.'

In addition, GCC will establish a Social Enterprise Board (SEB), bringing together key figures from the GCC, GSEN, social enterprises, public agencies supporting the sector, and academics with knowledge of the sector. [You can view the strategy here.](#)

SEB Industry Representatives

There are currently four places available for Industry Representatives on the SEB, you will find below more information on the nomination process.

SEB Meeting Schedule

The first meeting will take place on 10th September from 10am-12noon.

Please note the schedule of meetings are:

- Monday the 10th September
- Monday the 8th of October;
- Monday the 12th of November, and;
- Monday the 10th of December.

All meetings will take place between 10am and 12noon at the City Chambers. When considering applying please ensure you can attend all the dates above.

Role and Responsibilities of SEB Industry Representatives

A SEB Industry Representative does not represent their social enterprise, they are providing a role to reflect views from the wider social enterprise community, bringing ideas, challenges and solution to SEB meetings and reporting back to the social enterprise community through appropriate channels.

SEB Industry Representatives are expected to

- Take a strategic overview i.e. to look beyond the needs of your own organisation and consider the wider issues and be accountable to wider interests.
- Contribute to agendas and preparation of relevant papers and information.
- Regularly attend SEB meetings, at least an 80% attendance rate. Note: failure to attend two consecutive meetings without good reason or notification may result in re-consideration of the position of the Representative.
- To present collective views/perspectives from social enterprises in relation to the strategy and agenda items.
- To meet/communicate pre and post SEB meetings where appropriate
- To accurately feedback to the social enterprise community by written or verbal updates.
- To enable social enterprises to be consulted and involved wherever possible
- To participate in strategic planning and development.
- Identify and manage conflicts of interest satisfactorily

The role of the Industry Representative is a voluntary role with no expenses attached to it. Those undertaking the role should do so with the full support of their organisation.

Industry Representative Person Specification

Industry representatives must meet and be subscribed to [Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise](#) and be based within a social enterprise benefitting Glasgow City Council area.

Knowledge:

- An understanding of social enterprises including:
 - their challenges,
 - their support and development requirements
 - their contribution and economic and social impact in Glasgow/Scotland
 - their potential
- Knowledge and a working understanding of the benefits of working in partnership, meaningful engagement and effective participation.

Skills:

- Commitment to advocate on behalf of the wider social enterprise community, gathering and sharing information to support two way communication and engagement.
- Ability to liaise and network with a variety of groups and organisations effectively.
- Ability to communicate, negotiate and influence effectively
- Ability to manage conflicts of interest.
- Commitment to transparency and equity.

Experience:

- The leader/founder or senior manager within the social enterprise
- Experience within social enterprise
- Experience of collaborative working, building and maintaining positive working relationships with

statutory partners and other agencies/organisations.

- Experience of participative engagement in a representative role.

Capacity:

- Capacity to prepare for and attend regular meetings and complete relevant actions.

Process for nomination

Industry representatives are nominated through a formal process. Following this procedure will ensure consistency and transparency and will help support effective social enterprise representation by ensuring those with the relevant skills and experience are appointed.

- When a vacancy occurs for a SEB Industry representative, SEB will issue a call out to begin a nomination process which will include the role and remit of the SEB and commitment involved.
- Nominations received will be assessed by a SEB panel against the role criteria prior to confirming appointment. Vacancies for Industry representatives will be re-advertised where it is deemed the nomination does not meet the criteria.
- Nominees will be contacted by SEB and their agreement sought to represent at the SEB.

Criteria for nomination

- The social enterprise meets and has subscribed to the Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise in Scotland
- The individual nominee is employed by social enterprise based or trading within the Glasgow City Council boundary area
- The individual nominee is of Chief Executive/Founder/Senior Management of the social enterprise
- The individual nominee is recognised as having specialist expertise in the subject matter/priority area concerned
- The individual nominee has experience in the area of expertise required and is able to meet the time commitments.

Conflict of interest

- Industry representatives - Conflict of interest

Industry Representative have a duty to represent the interests of the social enterprise community at all times. If Representatives cannot provide impartial representation because it was influenced or seen to be influenced by the interests of another party, particularly the interests of their employing organisation, it would be a problem of conflict of interest.

The most common situations in which a conflict of interest could arise are where:-

- A representative becomes privy to information that would give them a competitive advantage in a commissioning or tendering exercise
- The interests of their employing organisation could conflict with those of another social enterprise or the social enterprise sector generally.

When a conflict of interest is identified: the representative should declare this to the SEB Chair prior to the meeting which they are due to attend, or where is not possible for any reason, at the meeting at which they are in attendance. Representatives are encouraged to discuss the matter with the SEB Chair and agree the best course of action.

A conflict of interest should be disclosed, although no further information need be given about the details of the conflict if it will compromise a duty of confidentiality or undermine the interests of the social enterprise – for example, reduce its competitiveness in a commissioning exercise.