

Annual Report

Covering the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Published: June 2019

Anthony Collins Solicitors | ART | Big Issue Invest | BVSC | brap | Bridging to the Future | Business in the Community | Changes UK | Colebridge Enterprises | Diocese of Birmingham | iSE | Jericho Community Business Ltd | Kajans Productions | RnR Organisation | Roots Human Resources CIC | Spot On Marketing & Communications CIC | Unity Trust Bank | UnLtd

Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium C.I.C (trading as BSSEC) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 07992674. Registered Office address: Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES.

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1: INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to publish our seventh Annual Report since incorporating as a Community Interest Company in 2012 – although it is now almost twenty years since BSSEC was first established. We are a membership network of 18 organisations that share a commitment to supporting the strategic growth and development of the sector. Recent years have seen our work focused increasingly on finding new ways to support and encourage social enterprise.

The annual celebration of social enterprise in Birmingham, City Drive, has gone from strength to strength, thanks largely to iSE's efforts and the time and energy its many participating social enterprises and supporters put into the week-long series of events. We continue to support and promote City Drive in every way we can.

We continued work on our Awards for All promoting the work of newer, younger social enterprises. We have also continued our work on social value and social enterprise, but this year, thanks to continuing financial support of The Barrow Cadbury Trust we have been able to do this in what we believe has been a more flexible and responsive way, working especially in the context of the West Midlands Combined Authority, where we have been an active participant in a Social Economy Task Force established by the WMCA. We gratefully acknowledge the support The Barrow Cadbury Trust has given us.

But the two most important items of news have been good and bad. First the good. In April 2018 it was confirmed that Birmingham's application to be recognised as a 'social enterprise city' under SEUK's 'social enterprise places' scheme had been successful. This huge step forward, ushering in a new period of development for the sector in Birmingham, is largely down to the immense efforts of Sarah Crawley and her team at iSE.¹

And now the bad. On the 7th March 2019 our friend, colleague and co-Director Mark Ellerby collapsed and died suddenly. We and many others in the social enterprise sector miss him dreadfully and we wish to record here our lasting gratitude for his contribution to BSSEC and to the wider sector. Mark was an accomplished social entrepreneur, of course, but he was also a dear friend and it still doesn't seem entirely believable that he has gone. We wrote about Mark on our blog, and carried a message from Martin Hogg, Mark's partner of twenty-two years.² We extend our sympathy and condolences to Martin and to their families and friends.

You can read more about these various aspects of our work in the next section.

¹ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/success-birminghams-social-enterprise-city-application-approved/>.

² See: <http://bssec.org.uk/in-memory-of-mark-ellerby-social-entrepreneur-activist-friend/>.

2: 2018/19 – HIGHLIGHTS

Overview

Having risen to nineteen members in the previous financial year with the addition of Changes UK, the recovery charity and social enterprise, membership is now back to eighteen following the sudden death on the 7th March 2019 of our friend, colleague and co-Director Mark Ellerby and the eventual winding-up of his social enterprise Cloudberry Innovation & Development (see notes 'Directors'). All members are listed on page 7.

Although trading conditions continue to be demanding, there has been something of an upturn in access to specialist business support, especially for new-start social enterprises, with member iSE operating three current programmes and support also available from the School for Social Entrepreneurs Midlands and UnLtd. Consequently we are seeing a healthy number of new-starts coming into the sector and expect the Birmingham Social Enterprise City baseline survey we are currently delivering to reflect a growth in newer, younger social enterprises once it is complete and the figures have been analysed and reported.³

We also acknowledge with gratitude that during the 2019 financial year we received continuing funding from The Barrow Cadbury Trust which has helped resource the Social Enterprise City baseline survey while also increasing our capacity to support various collaborative initiatives, such as City Drive and Social Enterprise City. It has also enabled BSSEC to work as a member of the Social Economy Task Force established by the West Midlands Combined Authority with a view to developing a coherent social enterprise policy and strategy statement for the WMCA. It is anticipated that the Task Force will report in the summer of 2019.

Highlights

- (1) In August 2018 The Barrow Cadbury Trust confirmed continuing funding totalling £20,000 over twelve months to enable BSSEC to continue working on social enterprise and social value in the context of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Birmingham Social Enterprise City, and City Drive. We record our gratitude here for the helpful and flexible approach the Trust has taken in supporting some of our core work.
- (2) In April 2018 we again supported ISE's City Drive 2018 initiative – a week-long series of events, workshops and activities to celebrate the social enterprise sector in Birmingham. As part of City Drive 2018 – and to build on our Awards for All project – we held an event on the 23rd April 2018 called *New Start Stories: The Unvarnished Truth*, at social enterprise café/venue Evolve @ The Adam & Eve, Digbeth. This was a great success and will almost certainly be repeated. There is full coverage of the event on the BSSEC blog.⁴
- (3) We continued our Awards for All project focused on telling the stories of newer, younger social enterprises and illustrating some of the new and emerging trends in the sector. The stories proved extremely popular and the feedback from the social enterprises featured was hugely appreciative. In the 2018/19 FY we posted a further ten stories on the blog under the broad heading of 'The changing face of social enterprise'.⁵ And despite the

³ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/complete-the-birmingham-social-enterprise-city-survey-and-be-entered-in-our-free-prize-draw-1st-prize-an-ipad/>.

⁴ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/who-starts-new-social-enterprises-and-why-three-recent-new-starts-told-us-their-extraordinary-stories/>.

⁵ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/category/changing-face-of-social-enterprise/>.

project ending during the course of the year, we found the interest in these pieces so great that we decided to continue with them, in some cases revisiting enterprises we covered almost a year earlier to see how things were progressing. You can read these additional pieces on the BSSEC blog.⁶

(4) In April 2018 it was confirmed that Birmingham's application to be recognised as a 'social enterprise city' under SEUK's 'social enterprise places' scheme had been successful. This work was led by ISE and largely the brain-child of Sarah Crawley.⁷

- We worked hard to help promote attendance at and subsequently provide coverage for the extraordinary official launch event of Birmingham Social Enterprise City, organised by ISE and held at Unity Trust Bank's brand new headquarters on the evening of the 15th November 2018.⁸
- Realising the ambitious plans the steering group has formulated will very much need to be a collaborative effort, however, and BSSEC is pleased to say that thanks to the additional resources it has received from The Barrow Cadbury Trust it has been possible to devote significantly more time and energy to supporting Social Enterprise City than would otherwise have been the case.
- As well as playing a prominent role in the steering group, BSSEC has also led on the development of a first baseline survey of social enterprise activity in Birmingham, which we expect will report in June 2019.⁹
- We also helped produce the Birmingham Social Enterprise City Action Plan and have been working to promote the initiative more widely and help more social enterprises involved.¹⁰

(5) Throughout the year we posted a total of 80 items – news stories, events, information about sector initiatives, policy updates – on the BSSEC blog. In addition, we helped circulate hundreds of announcements from other social enterprises and third sector organisations to promote their work, services, events or programmes. We continue to receive excellent feedback regarding the effectiveness of this information service. While the service continues to be a cost to BSSEC we still consider it one of the most important services we provide for the sector. Here are examples of feedback received from some of the c340 subscribers to this service: [1] "I just wanted to let you know that I'm leaving (...) next week and to thank you for all your support over the years and for circulating such useful information about the third sector – I'd say your mailings been by far the best source of information about the sector." [2] "Great news, we've had our first enquiry regarding the art competition and bearing in mind it's from a social enterprise that runs

⁶ See: Graduate Planet: <http://bssec.org.uk/graduate-planet-cic-funds-pioneering-environmental-workshop-for-60-schoolchildren/>; HUB 109: <http://bssec.org.uk/new-cic-opens-its-doors-on-erdington-high-st-hub-109-has-great-ambitions/>; and the historic Moseley Road Baths, reopened and now trading as an Charitable Incorporated Organisation: <http://bssec.org.uk/keeping-swimming-open-at-moseley-road-baths-this-historic-edwardian-pool-is-now-run-by-a-community-managed-charity/>

⁷ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/success-birminghams-social-enterprise-city-application-approved/>.

⁸ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/special-feature-birmingham-social-enterprise-city-official-launch-was-a-night-to-remember/>.

⁹ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/birmingham-social-enterprise-city-major-survey-planned-to-help-build-the-social-enterprise-evidence-base-for-birmingham/>.

¹⁰ See: <http://bssec.org.uk/birmingham-social-enterprise-city-what-can-you-and-your-enterprise-do/>.

activities for children I'm sure they were responding to your blog!" [3] "First of all let me thank you for all your emails. They have been a source of useful and valuable information and have really given us some good insights."

Community benefit

These activities have benefitted the wider social enterprise community by:

- Raising the profile of social enterprise.
- Improving public awareness and understanding of the sector, especially amongst policy-makers.
- Securing support for the social enterprise sector and ensuring that it remains at the top of the policy agenda.
- Helping create opportunities for inter-trading.
- Helping to ensure that the sector is aware of new and emerging policy and understands the opportunities this may offer (and the threats it may pose).
- Helping to promote social enterprises' events and offerings.
- Helping to raise the profile of social value amongst policy-makers, strategic partners and the sector.

Changes in officers

Following the sudden death of Mark Ellerby on the 7th March 2019, we are reduced from three Directors to two: Sarah Crawley and Alun Severn. There were no other changes in officers during the financial year. BSSEC would like to thank its members for their continuing support and involvement. We also thank our serving Directors, Sarah Crawley and Alun Severn, our Company Secretary, David Alcock of Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, and our Treasurer, Jasbir Rai and her assistant Rosa Spawton-Rice, both of BVSC.

3: OUR MEMBERS

We would like to thank all our members for their continuing commitment to BSSEC, to the sector, and to working together to for the benefit of the sector.



[Anthony Collins Solicitors](#) Law firm offering a wide range of legal services, including advice for social enterprises on legal structures, CICs, directors' responsibilities, contracts, property, and employment law



[ART \(Aston Reinvestment Trust\)](#) Provides loans of £10k-£100k to small businesses and social enterprises in the West Midlands where the bank is unable to assist in full or in part



[Big Issue Invest \(BII\)](#) is the social investment arm of The Big Issue. Our mission is to back sustainable social enterprises and ventures that help tackle poverty and inequality by providing loans and investments, not grants, from £50,000 to £1.5m.



[brap](#) Specialists in human rights, equality and diversity, including SFEDI-accredited business development

BRIDGING TO THE FUTURE

[Bridging to the Future](#) is a business incubator specialising in micro business and social enterprises. Services include business start up, investment in new projects, young entrepreneurship and business growth



[Business in the Community](#) A movement of UK companies committed to improving their positive impact on society



BVSC the centre for voluntary action Supports voluntary action in the city of Birmingham, providing information, advice and guidance to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises



Changes UK delivers innovative, person-centred support for people seeking abstinent recovery from drugs and/or alcohol. Our ambition is to establish Birmingham as the recovery capital of the UK. We also develop and support a number of service user led social enterprises.



Cloudberry Innovation & Development Fresh thinking on social enterprise, communities and business



Colebridge Enterprises The social enterprise arm of Solihull SUSTAIN – supporting the development of social enterprise in Solihull



THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

Diocese of Birmingham Co-ordinates and delivers development support to church-based community projects



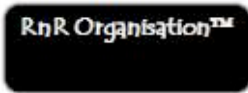
iSE Provides business development for the social economy and voluntary and community sectors. SFEDI-accredited. Specialisms in health and disability



The Jericho Foundation Paid work experience and social enterprise opportunities for people who experience difficulties in finding work



[Kajans](#) Training and personal development courses and delivers specialist support for the black social enterprise sector



[RnR Organisation](#) Event organisation, project and operational management to grassroots and minority cultural and community groups



[Roots Human Resources CIC](#) Specialist human resources services for charities, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and any other civil society organisation



[Spot On Marketing & Communications](#) Accessible and affordable marketing, PR and design services for the public sector and civil society organisations



[Unity Trust Bank](#) The specialist bank for civil society, social enterprises, CICs, councils, and trade unions



[UnLtd](#) Leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK. UnLtd resources hundreds of individuals each year through its core Awards programme

4: ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium C.I.C

Company No 07992674

Accounts for the year ended

31st March 2019

1. COMPANY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

DIRECTORS: Alun Severn
Sarah Crawley
Mark Ellerby [See p.3 and Changes to Officers, p.6]

COMPANY SECRETARY: David Alcock

REGISTERED OFFICE: Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

REGISTERED NUMBER: 07992674 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS: BVSC Accountancy Services
138 Digbeth
Birmingham
B5 6DR

Summary notes to accounts

The accounts show a surplus of £11,645 generated during the year, made up of £7,400 surplus in restricted funds (this is funding from Barrow Cadbury received in the previous year to deliver activities in 2019-2020) and a £4,245 surplus in unrestricted funds.

Impact on the reserves is as follows:

- Restricted reserves have moved from a surplus of £3,083 to a surplus of £7,400 at the end of March 2019, an increase of £4,317.
- Unrestricted reserves have moved from a surplus of £4,968 to a surplus of £4,245 at the end of 31st March 2019, a decrease of £722.
- Total reserves at the end of 31st March 2019 are £11,645, £7,400 in restricted and £4,245 in unrestricted.

Please see note 3 for further details.

Directors

It is with great sadness that we record here the sudden death of Mark Ellerby on the 7th March 2019. Mark served as a Director from 2015 to March 2019. Companies House was advised of the termination of his appointment as a Director and receipt of this notification confirmed on the 11th March 2019.

There were no other changes in officers during the financial year. BSSEC would like to thank its members for their continuing support and involvement, and thanks its serving Directors (Sarah Crawley and Alun Severn), its Company Secretary (David Alcock of Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP), and its Treasurer (Jasbir Rai of BVSC).

Directors' remuneration

During the year in question no Directors have received remuneration for being a Director, although their employing organisations (in one case a sole trader) have received payment for undertaking specific pieces of work in connection with Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium C.I.C's Barrow Cadbury Trust-funded research and policy development project.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

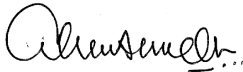
The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to accountants

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's accountants are unaware. Additionally, the directors have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant financial information and to establish that the company's accountants are aware of that information.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....
Alun Severn – Director
18th June 2019


**Report of the Accountants to the Directors of
BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL SOCIAL ECONOMY CONSORTIUM C.I.C**

As outlined in the statement of directors responsibilities on page seven you are responsible for preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2019 as set out on pages seven to thirteen and you consider that the company is exempt from audit.

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Birmingham and Solihull Social Economy Consortium CIC for the year ended 31 March 2019, which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.cimaglobal.com>.

Our work has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants as detailed at <http://www.cimaglobal.com> Chartered Management Accountants.



Jasbir Rai ACMA
BVSC Accountancy Services
138 Digbeth
Birmingham
B5 6DR

Profit and Loss account
For the Year ended 31st March 2019

| | Notes | 2019 £ | 2018 £ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Grants | 1 | 22,000 | 14,750 |
| Other | | 2,195 | 2,020 |
| Cost of Sales | | 0 | 0 |
| GROSS PROFIT | | 24,195 | 16,770 |
| Administrative Expenses | 2 | 20,601 | 24,041 |
| OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS) | | 3,594 | -7,271 |
| Interest Receivable and similar income | | 0 | 0 |
| SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION | | 3,594 | -7,271 |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities | | 0 | 0 |
| SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION | | 3,594 | -7,271 |

Balance Sheet
As at year ended 31st March 2019

| | Notes | 2019 £ | 2018 £ |
|--|-------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Debtors | | 0 | 0 |
| Cash at Bank | | <u>11,645</u> | <u>8,051</u> |
| | | 11,645 | 8,051 |
| Creditors | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | | | |
| Creditors | | 0 | 0 |
| | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>11,645</u> | <u>8,051</u> |
| Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities | | <u>11,645</u> | <u>8,051</u> |
| Capital and Reserves | 3 | | |
| Restricted reserves surplus/deficit | | 4,245 | 4,968 |
| Unrestricted reserves surplus/deficit | | 7,400 | 3,083 |
| | | <u>11,645</u> | <u>8,051</u> |

For the year ended 31 March 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

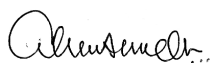
Responsibilities of directors:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board on: **18th June 2019**

Director



Name: **Alun Severn – Director**

Notes to the accounts:

| | | 2019 | 2018 |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| 1 | Income breakdown | | |
| | Grants | | |
| | Barrow Cadbury 2 | 3,000 | 4,750 |
| | Barrow Cadbury 3 | 19,000 | 0 |
| | Awards for All | 0 | 10,000 |
| | Other income | | |
| | Anthony Collins Solicitors | 150 | 150 |
| | Art share limited | 250 | 250 |
| | BITC | 0 | 100 |
| | BRAP LTD | 100 | 100 |
| | Big Issue | 200 | 0 |
| | Bridging to the future | 0 | 175 |
| | BVSC charity | 200 | 0 |
| | FSE (UNLTD) | 100 | 100 |
| | Int s/ent It | 100 | 250 |
| | Roots Human Resources | 100 | 100 |
| | R & R Organisation | 0 | 100 |
| | Spot on marketing | 100 | 100 |
| | The Birmingham DBF | 100 | 100 |
| | The Colebridge Trust | 370 | 120 |
| | The Jericho Foundation | 175 | 175 |
| | Unity Trust Bank | 100 | 200 |
| | Total | <u>24,045</u> | <u>16,770</u> |
| | | | |
| 2 | Administrative Expenses | | |
| | Grant expenditure | | |
| | Barrow Cadbury 2 | 3,000 | 16,357 |
| | Awards for All | 3,083 | 6,917 |
| | Barrow Cadbury 3 | 11,600 | 0 |
| | Other expenses | | |
| | IT | 167 | 106 |
| | Secretariat function | 2,650 | 500 |
| | Sundry | 100 | 161 |
| | Total | <u>20,601</u> | <u>24,041</u> |

3 Capital and Reserves

| | Opening Balance 1st April 2018 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers | Closing Balance 31st March 2019 |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------|---|
| Unrestricted Reserves | 4,968 | 2,195 | 2,917.25 | 0 | 4,245 |
| Restricted Reserves: | | | | | |
| Barrow Cadbury (2) | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Barrow Cadbury (3) | 0 | 19,000 | 11,600 | 0 | 7,400 |
| Awards for All | 3083 | 0 | 3,083 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Restricted Reserves | 3,083 | 22,000 | 17,683 | 0 | 7,400 |
| Total Reserves | 8,051 | 24,195 | 20,601 | 0 | 11,645 |

