

BSSEC CIC: Vision Statement

‘Our vision is for a thriving and successful social economy which supports people, communities and society to be the best, have enough and regenerate the environment. Collaboration and partnership working will overcome structural barriers, inequalities and poverty. Social economy businesses provide an essential function in today’s society, reinvesting profits and surpluses to address societal problems.’

The Context in which We Work: Growing the Social Economy in the West Midlands Combined Authority Area

What is the problem we are trying to solve?

The social and economic contribution that the social economy makes to some of the region’s poorest neighbourhoods and weakest local economies is extremely high and therefore now more importantly than ever, its potential to help support inclusive growth and an inclusive regional economic recovery should be maximised.

Social economy organisations are:

- Not the norm.
- Don’t have equal access to business opportunities.
- Receive limited business support to encourage growth.

Social economy leaders do not have enough opportunities to influence decisions affecting the local economy and their impact appears to go unacknowledged.

Big changes in our economy (e.g. Government drive to Net Zero), new large infrastructure projects and regeneration can all support social economy growth.

What resources do we have?

INTERNAL:

- Experience and expertise of the BSSEC CIC Board, Members and subscribers.
- Barrow Cadbury Trust project budget
- Existing relationships with some of those we wish to influence.

EXTERNAL:

- Passion and/or knowledge of others in Birmingham and the West Midlands.
- Experience of what works from other areas.

Key audiences

- West Midlands Combined Authority and other statutory organisations such as Birmingham City Council, NHS, universities, etc.
- Private sector in Birmingham.
- Voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith sectors.
- National government.
- Media (social and other).

Activities

Ongoing understanding the barriers to social economy growth and listening to key stakeholders.

Support the growth of the social economy through working in partnership with public agencies, the private sector, key support organisations and social businesses.

Work with partners to identify and increase new business opportunities for the social economy as sub-contractors, suppliers and partners across the region/nationally and share them.

Lobbying and advocating on behalf of the social business sector to raise profile and increase understanding locally and nationally

Sharing information and news, especially concerning support for social businesses so that they are better connected and more informed.

Support the sharing of current thinking and approaches to social economy growth through workshops, Roundtables and events.

Outputs

- Programme of meetings and events, including learning events, to grow the social economy.
- Sharing information, opportunities and knowledge.
- Working collaboratively to change access, policy and practice.
- Learning from actions research projects etc.
- Sharing learning with others across the region and nationally.

Intermediate outcomes

- Organisations and support for the social economy are better connected.
- Confidence and practice in growing the social economy is increased among individuals and organisations.
- Data is available on progress and social economy growth.
- Co-development of interventions by statutory/other organisations to support social economy growth.
- Challenges of moving to net zero/ sustainable economy do not disproportionately disadvantage society.

Goal 1:

To provide an effective information service to West Midlands based social economy organisations and supporters to support sector growth and long-term sustainability.

Goal 2:

Achievement of greater impact by social economy organisations is supported and achieved across the region addressing societal problems especially inequalities.

Goal 3:

Social economy organisations become the norm as a business form becoming increasingly profitable, working in collaboration to maximise impact.

