



Social Enterprise Charter 2010

Social enterprises are businesses driven by social and environmental purposes. There are 62,000 of them in the UK, contributing over £24bn to the economy, employing approximately 800,000 people¹.

Social enterprises operate in almost every industry in the UK, from health and social care to renewable energy, from retail to recycling, from employment to sport, and from housing to education. Whatever they do, they do it differently from typical business, because they are driven by a social and/or environmental mission. Well known examples of social enterprises include *The Big Issue*, Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen, and the fair-trade chocolate company Divine Chocolate.

By operating for more than just the pursuit of profit, social enterprises can create a more equitable and resilient economy that is working towards the well-being of its citizens and the environment.

Through releasing creativity and energy in people, empowering them to develop their own solutions, and generating wealth that's reinvested in the community, social enterprises also develop a culture of enterprise and build the confidence of communities to act.

We are asking you to sign the **Social Enterprise Charter** to demonstrate your support for social enterprises in your constituency and across the UK which are:

- transforming the communities we live in;
- flying the flag for ethical capitalism; and
- helping to rebuild the UK economy as we emerge from recession.

To sign the charter, please email charter@socialenterprise.org.uk with the title 'I support social enterprise'.



¹ 2005-2007 data from the Annual Survey of Small Business UK