

Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

20th October 2020

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you with a package of proposals for the Comprehensive Spending Review to help Britain build back better from Coronavirus.

The Prime Minister said recently that now was not the time to slow down on transforming this country but to put the foot on the accelerator. We could not agree more.

As you know, social enterprises have a track record of success in transforming local communities through business. The sector has created over 2m jobs and contributes over £60bn to the UK economy. We know that social enterprises, community businesses and cooperatives work.

To level up the country we need to turbocharge their growth. Communities are doing their bit with thousands of new organisations set up since COVID hit. They need Government to get behind them.

We are putting forward four proposals which we think could help social enterprises to grow and get local places back on their feet:

1. **Trade to Recovery** - a match trading scheme to support social enterprises through difficult COVID trading conditions;
2. **Social Enterprise "Fightback Fund"** - a programme to help a new wave of start ups which have emerged during the COVID crisis;
3. **Project Restart** - a fund to support the communities take over failing businesses and turn them around as social enterprises, cooperatives and community businesses;
4. **Community Entrepreneurship Zones (CEZs)** - a place-based initiative to help groups of social entrepreneurs within local communities.

These proposals could cost just over £100m a year over the next five years, but could transform communities up and down the country. We estimate that these proposals could:

- Create over 20,000 jobs over the next ten years;
- Generate over £590m of economic activity within local communities;
- Over £30m reinvested back into communities ever year as these social enterprises develop and grow.

Social enterprises want to get the country back to work. No other part of our economy combines the dynamism of business with a commitment to people and place. With the right support and ambition they can deliver the Government's ambition to level up the country faster and better than anyone else.

We hope that you will use this Comprehensive Spending Review to get behind the businesses that are backing Britain.

Yours sincerely,




Alastair Wilson
Chief Executive, School for Social
Entrepreneurs



Ben Carpenter
Chief Executive, Social Value UK



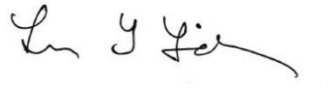
James Alcock
Chief Executive, Plunkett Foundation



James Wright
Policy Lead, Co-operatives UK



Tony Armstrong
Chief Executive, Locality



Lucy Findlay MBE
Chief Executive, Social Enterprise Mark
CIC



Mark Norbury
Chief Executive, UnLtd



Peter Holbrook CBE
Chief Executive, Social Enterprise UK