








## Virtual support platforms for social enterprises



There are a growing number of virtual platforms emerging, which can offer a variety of support for social enterprises, including access to corporate expertise, mentoring and increased visibility to potential buyers.

The below table provides more details on these and how they can be of benefit to your business.

Platform	Type of platform	Overview	Cost	Benefits for social enterprises
	Matching	A virtual marketplace matching social enterprises with private sector expertise – social enterprises can explore and access free virtual support for a wide range of projects	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hundreds of projects to choose from, with option to customize</li> <li>• Access to expert support – users can select which ‘Angel’ works on their project</li> </ul>
	Mentoring	The Human Lending Library provides social enterprises with free advice and mentoring from successful entrepreneurs	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free access to one of more than 70 successful businesspeople as a mentor to help with a business challenge</li> <li>• Bespoke matching to the person best suited to help with the challenge</li> <li>• Be part of the alumni - a network of more than 200 social entrepreneurs</li> <li>• Feature on alumni webpage and in communications</li> </ul>

Platform	Type of platform	Overview	Cost	Benefits for social enterprises
	Directory	A curated community of social enterprises, responsible businesses, and changemakers	Free (basic profile)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visibility/exposure</li> <li>• Find new suppliers, service providers, and partners</li> <li>• Add products, services, events, vacancies and more to the marketplace</li> <li>• Share information and connect with other like-minded groups</li> <li>• Option to set up networks</li> </ul>
<p><b>MATCHABLE</b></p>	Matching	A B2B platform matching individuals and corporates with impact start-ups to support them to create social change	Free/low cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-bono or low-bono support for innovative, high impact projects</li> <li>• Access a broad range of superstar talent - all volunteers are qualified, experienced professionals offering a variety of skillsets suitable to every stage of growth</li> <li>• Listings on the platform raise awareness/exposure and help attract more engaged volunteers who often become advocates within their companies and more widely after completing a project</li> </ul>

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	Social procurement	An online platform listing pre-vetted B2B social enterprises	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility to potential public and private sector buyers</li> <li>• Meet-the-buyer events</li> <li>• Showcase social impact and trade capabilities</li> <li>• Connections to other social enterprises and community members</li> <li>• Marketing and showcasing your work</li> </ul>
	Supply chains/ social procurement	Transparency in Supply Chains platform – enables businesses to track the transparency of their suppliers	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility to potential buyers</li> <li>• Improve supply chain transparency</li> <li>• Evidence transparency</li> <li>• Display accreditations</li> <li>• Simplify reporting</li> </ul>
	Legal support	Connects social enterprises with top law firms and corporate legal teams to provide free legal assistance	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to legal expertise</li> <li>• Enables scaling of impact</li> <li>• Webinars and workshops providing practical guidance on legal issues</li> </ul>
	Social procurement	Matches socially purposed buyers with social enterprise suppliers	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility to potential buyers</li> <li>• Identify buyers/partners with shared values</li> <li>• Professional advice/training</li> </ul>

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	<p>Matching</p>	<p>A matchmaking site for charities, social enterprises, companies and grant-makers</p>	<p>Free until 31/03/2021 and then:</p> <p>Free for micro SEs (turnover under £50k)</p> <p>From £100 a year for those with turnover over £50k</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a platform for social enterprises to list their most urgent resource needs</li> <li>• Visibility/exposure to potential funders and corporate volunteers</li> <li>• Matches organisations seeking resources with organisations offering resources, based on shared values</li> <li>• Social impact reporting for projects</li> <li>• Transparent and efficient application process</li> </ul>
	<p>Social procurement in construction</p>	<p>A scheme to help large commercial construction projects open up their supply chains to local tradespeople, social enterprises and small businesses.</p>	<p>Free</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcases social enterprises to Work Radar members and partners with local construction contracts</li> <li>• Social enterprises can access a pipeline of local construction projects</li> <li>• Connects social enterprises with main contractors and subcontractors in their area</li> </ul>