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## Social Enterprise Coalition Activity

### Claire Dove named as new Coalition chair

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Claire Dove  
MBE, DL

The Social Enterprise Coalition has named pioneering Liverpool-based entrepreneur Claire Dove as chair - to replace Baroness Glenys Thornton.

Claire is the CEO of [Blackburne House Group](#), a training led organisation which runs a number of social enterprises providing career opportunities for women in non-traditional sectors such as construction and IT.

Claire Dove said: "In the 1980s I used social enterprise to help break the barriers to women accessing careers in male dominated markets. Now I want to use those skills to help social enterprises gain the access they deserve to all markets - and close the current gap between political rhetoric and the reality on the ground."

### Coalition takes over APPG secretariat

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From January the Coalition will be taking over the secretariat of All Party Parliamentary Group for social enterprise.

This will be an exciting opportunity to further raise awareness of social enterprise across parliament and keep social enterprise high on the political agenda. For further information please email Olof Jonsdottir at [olof.jonsdottir@socialenterprise.org.uk](mailto:olof.jonsdottir@socialenterprise.org.uk)

### Success at first BME consultation event

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## Tokunbo Ajasa-Oluwa

The Coalition held the first in a series of BME social enterprise consultations on November 28. It was a great success, identifying key issues and strategies for raising the profile of BME social enterprises.

Delegates from local councils and from BME social enterprises nationwide attended. A number of social entrepreneurs, including social enterprise ambassador Tokunbo Ajasa-Oluwa, spoke about their experiences.

After the talks, the delegates identified good practise and discussed ways of tackling the issues involved.

The Coalition intends to use the consultations to raise the profile of BME social enterprises within the movement.

The next event will take place on January 24. For further information please email [tamina.mir@socialenterprise.org.uk](mailto:tamina.mir@socialenterprise.org.uk)

## Coalition highlights 2007

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A flyer detailing the highlights of 2007 for the Social Enterprise Coalition has been published. The flyer looks at policy, research and networks as well as flagship events and projects. As CEO Jonathan Bland says on the cover: "This has been a great year."

[Download a pdf copy](#)

## Newsletter archives now available online

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We are now posting all our sent newsletters online in a virtual archive.

If you would like to read or print previous newsletters please visit [archives.secnewsletter.org.uk](http://archives.secnewsletter.org.uk)

## Youth social enterprise ideas sought for £5,000 prize

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Are you under 30? Do you have a great business idea that could create social or environmental change? Do you want £5,000 to get it off the ground?

All you need to do to enter the **Make Your Mark in 60 Seconds competition – Phase2** is to make a minute-long film where you describe your idea and why it's so great. Once you've made the film (on your mobile or a video camera if you are lucky enough to have one) just upload it to [www.bebo.com/60seconds](http://www.bebo.com/60seconds) and then wait to

see if you've won.

It's as simple as that. We've even prepared a toolkit that you download to help you get started. The winner will be announced at YoungVoice08 in February – the conference for young minds with social ambition.

What are you waiting for?

[Download toolkit](#)

## Coalition informs BERR agenda

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The Coalition recently assisted the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) with a consultation workshop to inform their enterprise agenda.

The workshop highlighted some of the key business issues affecting social enterprises, and will inform the department's forthcoming White Paper. If you are interested in feeding in to this ongoing work please email Ceri Jones at [ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk](mailto:ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk)

## News

### Sunlight Development Trust wins £80,000 lottery grant

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Peter Holbrook

The [Sunlight Development Trust](#) has won £80,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's regional People's Millions contest after a public vote.

The trust, which provides a range of social, medical and community activities in Gillingham, Kent will use the money to fund refurbishment and development, therapists, youth workers and advice counsellors.

Peter Holbrook, CEO of Sunlight, is a Social Enterprise Ambassador.

[Read the Big Lottery Fund article in full](#)

### CAN Mezzanine saves sector over £2m every year

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The social enterprise CAN Mezzanine saves the third sector in excess of £2.2m every year, according to independent research.

The London Business School research found that the Mezzanine, which provides office space to charities and social enterprises at two sites in central London, is 55% cheaper than similar landlords. The organisation saves the 92 charities and social enterprises it houses more than £5,000 a year for every desk rented

Andrew Croft, CAN Mezzanine Director, said: "Social enterprises and charities choose to live in our buildings because of four critical reasons: price, quality, security of tenure and location. We are proud to house some of the leading names in social change, both here and abroad."

[Further information](#)

### Five Equal-Invest companies attract investors

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The final event for the Equal-Invest project took place on December 6 with social enterprises pitching to a team of investors.

Investors agreed to continue discussions with five of the enterprises pitching for funding and all fifteen enterprises taking

part have benefited from mentoring and support.

Equal-Invest, funded by the European Social Fund's Equal initiative, was designed to prepare a selection of social enterprises for growth investment through structured mentoring.

[Further information](#)

### **Social enterprise could help councils fight climate change**

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Councils could cut carbon emissions by one third with the help of local organisations, including social enterprises, according to new research.

The report, published by the Local Government Association Independent Climate Change Commission, shows that if all councils made their buildings and vehicle fleets carbon neutral they would save 5.5 million tons every year.

With the help of social enterprises and other local organisations and residents, councils could increase these reductions 30 fold to over 150 million tons.

The report also suggests that if some councils fail to respond to climate change in the next two years then central government, which has pledged up to 32% reductions by 2020, should legislate to ensure that councils take action to tackle global warming.

[Further information](#)

### **Pilot scheme to include social clauses for recycling firms**

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Four local authorities are to take part in a pilot scheme that will require organisations bidding for waste and recycling contracts to provide social benefits, third sector minister Phil Hope announced this week.

Medway, Braintree, Leeds and Bury local authorities will include social clauses in their waste and recycling contracts. The announcement is contained in Public Services Action Plan: One Year On.

[Further information](#)

### **Social stock exchange on the horizon**

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Work is under way to create a stock exchange for UK social enterprises. Social investment experts Pradeep Jethi and Mark Campanale have established the Social Stock Exchange Ltd and plan to create a market aimed at organisations with annual turnovers of more than £500,000 that have been trading for three years or longer.

Jethi, the project's chief executive, is to approach the estimated 300 UK social enterprises that qualify to ask if they will join and to canvass opinion. The study, endorsed by the Office of the Third Sector, should be completed by March.

[Read the Third Sector article in full](#)

### **Defra third sector research programme**

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Defra are currently carrying out a piece of research on the benefits of third sector organisations in the delivery of waste management. They are looking at whether social enterprises are adding value over and above that created through private contracts.

If you have any evidence of the added value that your social enterprise is delivering please email Ceri Jones at [ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk](mailto:ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk)

The research findings will be used to inform Defra's policy making.

## C o n s u l t a t i o n s

### Consultation on the Code of Good Governance

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The Governance Hub has commissioned an independent evaluation of the Code of Good Governance, which sets out best practice for governing a social enterprise or voluntary organisation. The consultation is being led by not-for-profit think tank nfpSynergy and will be open until January 18. It is designed to evaluate the awareness, usage and influence of the Code of Good Governance.

For information and to register for one of the eight consultation events planned across the country email your contact details to [governance@nfpsynergy.net](mailto:governance@nfpsynergy.net)

[The online questionnaire](#)

[Further information](#)

## E v e n t s

### Voice08 - The UK conference for social enterprise

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Voice08

**February 26-7**

**Liverpool**

The Coalition's annual conference is the national social enterprise event of the year.

Day one - Young Voice08 - will be a half day interactive event focusing on young people from the ages of 14 to 30. In the evening there will be a reception for Voice08. Day two will be a mixture of exhibitions, speakers and lively debates.

Voice08 is your opportunity to mix with the UK's most exciting social enterprises, share ideas and help to shape a new social economy.

[Further information](#)

### Black and Minority Ethnic social enterprise consultation

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**West Midlands**

**January 24**

This second consultation event, hosted by the Social Enterprise Coalition, aims to raise the profile of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) social enterprises. The Coalition plans to use the event to form a lobbying group and to provide a support network for its BME members. This is a valuable opportunity to share and discuss good practice and learning.

For further information please contact James Yabut at [events@socialenterprise.org.uk](mailto:events@socialenterprise.org.uk).

## Course for social enterprise advisors

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### Professional Development for Social Enterprise Advisors

**February 04**

**Exeter**

RISE course covering all the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) social enterprise units and provides you with all you need to be assessed against the SFEDI standards.

Places are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Fee: £545 or £450 for RISE Additions members

Call 01392 435775 or email [events@rise-sw.co.uk](mailto:events@rise-sw.co.uk)

[Further information](#)

## R e s o u r c e s

### Performance monitoring software available for social enterprises

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User-friendly software which can help social enterprises and other third sector organisations improve performance has been released. 'The Third Sector Performance Dashboard' includes templates for monitoring performance and can also help organisations to set their own objectives and measures. The software includes template policies and procedures, e.g. distance travelled questionnaires, and a range of links to other resources.

The software is free for members of Social Firms UK, costs £50 for members of the Coalition or NCVO and is £90 for everyone else. It can be ordered from Social Firms UK by emailing [info@socialfirms.co.uk](mailto:info@socialfirms.co.uk)

[Further information](#)

### New fund for young people to run community projects

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Almost £900,000 of grant funding was made available this week to young people wanting to run community projects.

The funding is part of the second phase of youth volunteering programme vashpoint. The scheme, run by youth volunteering charity v, will enable young people aged between 16 and 25 to apply for up to £2,500 to fund projects they have developed.

The projects could be anything from running community radio stations to laying on local football tournaments. Up to 400 projects are expected to receive cash under the scheme.

[Further information](#)

### Network for Building Materials Re-use Centres

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A new network will support social enterprises which re-use building materials - as well as helping the sector grow.

Building Material Re-use Centres (BMRCs) sell reusable building materials to businesses

and the general public. BMRCs are extremely successful in North America, with one in almost every large community. They aim to increase the reuse of building materials from construction or regeneration projects. They also provide charged services such as clearing, salvage and training in order to increase awareness within the construction industry.

If your organisation is interested in the business opportunities the network will create, or in reviewing an upcoming toolkit, please contact Ronan Leyden, Reclamation Officer, BioRegional Reclaimed on 020-8404-4897 or email [ronan.leyden@bioregional.com](mailto:ronan.leyden@bioregional.com).

### Governance advice for social enterprises

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A new research report titled *For Love and Money: governance and social enterprise* is now available.

The report, commissioned by the Social Enterprise Coalition and the Governance Hub, includes recommendations for governance advisers working with social enterprises.

Good governance provides accountability and transparency for stakeholders, safeguards investors and provides a framework for responsible decision making.

[Download the report as a pdf](#)

## Member Profile

### The Blackburne House Group

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The Blackburne House Group is a training centre based in a grade II listed building in Merseyside, which focuses on teaching technical professions to women - an area in which they have traditionally been under-represented.

A winner in the 2002 Enterprising Solutions Awards, the centre is ranked in the top 10% of colleges and educational providers in the UK. Over 600 women are currently taking courses there in IT, design and construction as well as media and social enterprise.

Blackburne House sees female economic independence and enterprise as essential to creating local opportunities and aiding the regional economy.

[www.blackburnehouse.co.uk](http://www.blackburnehouse.co.uk)

## Website of the Week

[www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com)

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Caring Christmas Trees is a social enterprise which sells christmas trees to raise funds for homeless projects in Edinburgh and Fife.

Their trees are fresh, affordable, high quality and from sustainable tree farms. For the cost of one tree, the projects can provide a homeless person with a hot meal and a bed for the night during the cold winter months.

They need to sell at least 4,000 trees and recruit 400 volunteers.

Buy a tree today and help a homeless person have a

Happy Christmas.

[www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com)

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#### SEC contact details

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