



Social Enterprise Support

An offer to communities from Cambridgeshire
ACRE



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About Cambridgeshire ACRE

Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside the rural communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, helping them take action to make positive changes to their local neighbourhoods.

Whether it's supporting volunteers to lead community projects, bringing local organisations together to drive meaningful change or amplifying the voices of our parish and community members, our charity is deeply embedded in rural community life.

With our support, residents, groups and partners can seize opportunities and realise their aspirations to improve the places, services and facilities that are important to them.

More information on Cambridgeshire ACRE's work with rural communities at <https://www.cambsacre.org.uk>.

Introduction

Cambridgeshire ACRE offers a business advice service with experienced advisors who can support rural not-for profit businesses that have a social mission to set-up and grow.

We can support both individuals and community/charitable organisations/groups including:

- Existing and new businesses that meet the criteria for being a social enterprise.
- Existing charities wishing to diversify their income, including community buildings such as village halls/community centres.
- Buildings or assets, either in or wishing to be, in community-ownership.
- Community-owned rural services such as pubs and shops.

How we work

We will:

- Arrange an induction meeting to listen to your ideas and business needs so that we can tailor our support to your bespoke requirements.
- Ask you to evaluate your business under some key areas so we can understand where our support is most needed and can prioritise the advice we give.
- Provide a detailed support plan relevant to your needs which will detail the outputs and outcomes you can expect from our support and how that support will be given.
- Use a range of different support methods to help you achieve your goals including advice sessions, provision of information and useful tools, facilitation of workshops and training sessions.
- Work with our specialist business advisor partners, Allia Impact and the Plunkett Foundation, to offer their specialist advice where it is needed as part of your support plan.

Who we work with

Cambridgeshire ACRE delivers its support for social enterprise and community owned business in association with several other organisations who provide specialist support:

- **Social Enterprise East of England (SEEE) (<https://seee.co.uk/>)**
Social Enterprise East of England (SEEE) supports social enterprises across the East to grow, communicate and demonstrate their impact and social value.
- **Allia Impact (<https://allia.org.uk/>)**
Allia works with entrepreneurs and businesses that aim to make positive change for people, planet and place. By supporting them, they help them to do more, more effectively and on a greater scale.
- **Plunkett Foundation (<https://plunkett.co.uk/>)**
Through their support for community businesses, they have a specific mission to create innovative, impactful and inclusive spaces.

Funding support for social enterprise support is available from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority.

Cambridgeshire ACRE is a supporting member of Social Enterprise UK.

The types of advice we can provide

Our experienced advisors can support with the following not-for profit business requirements:

| Area of expertise | The type of support we can provide |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Funding support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referring you to one of our specialist partners so you might access the available funding and in-depth business support. |
| Business planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting your vision, purpose and social mission.• Prioritising goals and activities.• Setting business plan objectives both strategic and near term.• Putting in place business planning procedures to allow for annual delivery cycle and review. |
| Business operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing policies and procedures to run the operations effectively.• Undertaking risk assessment processes and setting mitigating actions.• Setting-up successful recruitment strategies to find the right staff.• Procedures and requirements for employing someone for the first-time.• Managing staff performance and undertaking reviews. |
| Partnership working | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building good partnership relationships.• Frameworks to work successfully in partnership. |
| Governance models | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considering the different legal structures available and choosing the right one.• Recruiting and inducting directors.• Registering your legal structure including adopting a constitution.• Advising on options for opening a bank account. |
| Markets, customers and competition | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researching and gathering information about markets and competitors.• Defining the market/s.• Defining customer needs and their ability to pay for services/products.• Developing a fundraising strategy.• Building a case for support. |
| Monitoring and evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting a theory of change.• Setting key performance indicators.• Establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework. |

| Area of expertise | The type of support we can provide |
|--------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting monitoring data. • Measuring social impact. |
| Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working out costs, profit and margins. • Setting budgets. • Producing management accounts. • Producing cashflow statements. |
| Management of volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting volunteer policies. • Recruiting, retaining and managing volunteers. • Training volunteers. |
| Management of community assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering assets of community value. |
| Community consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting your community on their needs and your ideas. • Reporting on the results in an open and transparent way. |

How to contact us

If you would like to speak with us further about the support we can provide, please contact:

Lisa Chambers
Community Development Officer

Tel: 01353 865048

Email: lisa.chambers@camsacre.org.uk