



WILLMOTT DIXON

SINCE 1852

# Our commitment to social enterprises

Social Enterprise UK Buy Social Corporate Challenge: one year on

September 2019



# Social Enterprise UK Buy Social Corporate Challenge

**Between June 2018 and June 2019 we have spent over £450k with social enterprises.**



In June 2018, Willmott Dixon signed up to Social Enterprise UK's (SEUK) Buy Social Corporate Challenge, committing us to increase the goods and services we procure through social enterprises\*.

Across the business, our people are using social enterprises to supply everything from everyday items, such as hand soap and stationery, through to design and print work, cleaning services, catering, venue hire, and team away days.

To encourage further uptake, we have:

- Set up a system to monitor the amount spent with social enterprises
- Created a social enterprise directory of SEUK verified companies

The following pages show how our use of social enterprises is making a difference to business, communities and individuals.

\*Currently, there is no legal definition of a social enterprise. SEUK defines social enterprises as businesses that sell goods and services in the open market, create employment and reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community.

**Since January 2019, we have increased the number of social enterprises we are working with by 100%.**



## The value of social procurement

“We see [using social enterprises] as a strategic form of corporate responsibility.

If companies like Willmott Dixon and our other Buy Social Corporate Challenge partners can help social enterprises... we can help them scale up the positive impact they are having.

Partnerships like this mean that wider society benefits from the day-to-day spend of Willmott Dixon.”

**Andy Daly,**  
corporate partnerships, Social Enterprise UK



## Success story

# Radiant Cleaners

Radiant Cleaners are a Nottingham-based social enterprise that provides support and jobs for individuals facing barriers to employment. They are a professional cleaning service, with a great team made up of employees at risk of exclusion from the jobs market, people like new father Nick...

Nick was struggling to find work to fit around his part-time college course. By working for Radiant Cleaners, he is now able to support his family.

“Without the help from Radiant Cleaners to accommodate my class schedule, I would not be able to achieve the qualifications I need to be a successful electrician,” he said.

“I have now completed City & Guilds level 2 diploma in electrical installations.”

“Working in the Willmott Dixon cabins has been rewarding,” he added. “I have had an opportunity to see what it is like to work on an active construction site. I enjoy the friendly and helpful atmosphere of the Willmott Dixon people.”

Radiant Cleaners and Willmott Dixon are looking forward to impacting more lives, with more jobs in the pipeline. Find out more about [Radiant cleaners here](#).



**Nick - Radiant Cleaners**

“We have engaged with, and developed businesses that reinvest their profits for social good. We started with companies that sell products such as office supplies, PPE and toiletries. Our aim is to use more social enterprises on our sites and in live environments.”

Jon Meeks, head of supply chain  
Willmott Dixon Interiors



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# Our partnership with **Community wood**

To avoid surplus wood from going to landfill, in 2010, we partnered with Community Wood Recycling; a social enterprise that collects and reuses waste wood to create work and training for local disadvantaged people.

Local teams collect waste wood from Willmott Dixon sites and sort it into three categories: larger pieces are sold for reuse, smaller pieces are made into sellable products and leftover pieces are cut up into firewood. Anything that cannot be reused is recycled into woodchip.

The activity helps disadvantaged people (for example, ex-offenders, those overcoming substance abuse and individuals with learning difficulties or mental health issues) to build confidence and learn new skills.

Between March 2010 and September 2019, Community Wood has rescued 4,387 tonnes of wood from our waste stream, creating 44 paid jobs and training 123 people.

The partnership also reduces our environmental impact. Our partnership with Community Wood has saved 2,134 tonnes of carbon dioxide.



**“We are delighted to have been working in partnership with Willmott Dixon since 2010. Our collaboration has helped to save precious resources and change lives and clearly demonstrates how, by working with social enterprises, the construction sector can play a key role in developing the circular economy to the benefit of the whole community”.**

**Richard Mehmed, Managing Director, Community Wood**



“We are passionate about creating a sustainable built environment and using social enterprises aligns with our objective to generate value in the communities in which we work. Supporting social enterprises in our supply chain helps us to address social, community and local issues during procurement and contract delivery.”

Steve Watson,  
national supply chain director, Willmott Dixon



# Social enterprises we have used

Click on the logos to find out more about these fantastic social enterprises.

For more information about social enterprises, visit [www.socialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk).

For help getting your local office involved, [contact Elizabeth Taylor](#).



Award-winning creative agency, Mediorite, helps to tackle youth unemployment and promote social inclusion through providing paid work and industry experience for young people.



From Babies with Love sells ethically-sourced baby clothes and accessories. 100% of their profits are donated to orphaned and abandoned children around the world.



Studio306 Collective offers a creative space for those recovering from mental illness. The studio helps these people rediscover forgotten skills and develop new ones in a creative, collaborative environment.



The Real Junk Food Project is a social enterprise which make use of surplus food, which is still good to eat, but destined for landfill, helping to reduce waste and feed the local community.



The Commercial Foundation offers print services that make a difference. All profits from their We Do. Print service helps disadvantaged young people develop life skills and gain work experience.



The National Community Wood Recycling Project is a network of social enterprises, that saves waste timber from going to landfill while creating opportunities for local disadvantaged people.



## Radiant Cleaners

Radiant Cleaners are a Nottingham-based professional cleaning service. They provide support and jobs for individuals facing barriers to employment, or at risk of being excluded from the jobs market.



Recycling lives is a scrap metal recycling and waste management service. Their work creates measurable social value through three primary activities: reducing reoffending, supporting homeless men and redistributing food to support charities and community groups.