Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

1. What is a VCSE Organisation?

Sometimes the Council works with organisations that exist to help people or improve communities.

These are called Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations. They're not set up to make money for private owners or shareholders. Instead, they aim to do good like running a food bank, supporting young people, or offering fair loans and they put most of any money they make back into their cause.

2. VCSEs include:

- Charities
- Community groups
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Community Benefit Societies (CBSs)

3. These organisations often:

- Have a clear social purpose
- Reinvest most of their profits into that purpose
- Limit how much profit can be paid out
- Protect their assets so they stay focused on their mission
- Benefit the wider public, not just a select few

4. Examples:

- A charity running a food bank
- A community café that trains young people
- A credit union offering fair financial services

5. Not examples:

- A regular company that pays profits to shareholders
- A private club that only serves its members

6. In short:

VCSEs may trade and earn money, but they use it to help people—not to make private profit.

7. A vertical VCSE decision flowchart: