



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**

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**Strategy**

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# **Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2010-2011**

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March 2010

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Stimulating  
**innovation**  
**enterprise** and  
**competitiveness**

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Department of Enterprise,  
Trade and Investment

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# **Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2010-2011**

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March 2010

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**March 2010**

**Social Economy Branch**

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An executive summary of this document is also available in an accessible format if required i.e. Braille, large print, audio cassette or in a minority language

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# Foreword



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlene Foster". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Arlene Foster**

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

As Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, I recognise and value the significant role played by social entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland. I have seen the real difference that social economy enterprises have made to people's lives particularly in terms of their impact on local communities and areas of economic disadvantage.

I am delighted to present this Strategy which has been developed to ensure that social economy enterprise is valued, encouraged and supported. My Department retains lead responsibility for taking this work forward within Government and will be working in partnership with those Departments involved with the social economy including Invest NI, DSD, CPD (Central Procurement Directorate), DEL, DHSSPS and DARD. We will need the full engagement of those Departments and stakeholders working with the sector to deliver the actions outlined in this Strategy.

The development of a strong and sustainable Social Economy Network (SEN) is a key element in this Strategy. We have put in place a phased reducing grant of £600,000 to be paid over the four year period up to 2011 to enable the SEN to build a fully inclusive, more independent and income generating organisation to represent the sector. I would encourage all social economy enterprises to join the SEN and make your voice heard on the issues that are of importance to the development of your business.

I believe that through co-operation and partnership we can achieve Government's vision for this Strategy, which is an enterprise environment that encourages greater social entrepreneurial activity and supports social economy enterprises that want to grow.

# Executive Summary

## BACKGROUND

The Executive has identified “growing a dynamic, innovative economy” as the top priority over the next 3 years, with DETI having lead responsibility in delivering on this aim. It is within this context, and in recognition of the potential of the social economy to make a significant contribution to both social and economic regeneration, that Government has developed this refreshed SEE Strategy in partnership with the social economy sector. Through the delivery of the three strategic objectives listed below, we aim to achieve our vision of ‘an enterprise environment which encourages greater social entrepreneurial activity and is supportive of those SEEs that want to grow’.

The Strategy can be considered as a transitional Strategy in preparation for the enhanced role envisaged under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) for district councils.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

In building on the significant achievements of Northern Ireland’s first SE Strategy, Government - working in partnership with the social economy sector and in particular the SEN - is committed to a range of actions designed to deliver three key strategic objectives to:

- increase awareness of the sector and establish its value to the local economy;
- develop the sector and increase its business strength; and
- create a supportive and enabling environment.

Our focus will be on developing the business strength of SEEs to reach a scale and capability which will enable them to contribute to the overall viability and sustainability of the sector and ultimately the local economy.

The SEE Strategy includes actions designed to:

- increase knowledge and understanding;
- provide support for business growth;
- build business skills;
- foster a SEE culture;
- build the evidence base; and
- measure the impact of SEEs.



## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

A key area of work within the Strategy will be to establish the value of the social economy sector to the local economy and we want to ensure that effective arrangements are put in place to make sure we can measure the impact of the Strategy.

As the key owners of actions in the Strategy the SEN, Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG) and the Social Economy Forum (SEF) will have lead roles in monitoring and reporting progress against the agreed strategic objectives.

The Strategy will be evaluated and reviewed as it is progressed so as to take account of the changing environment, and DETI will lead on the preparation of annual progress reports which will be published on the DETI Social Economy website.

In addition, an external evaluation will be carried out in 2010-11 to assess what impact the Strategy has had on the sector.

## **EQUALITY**

In developing this Strategy careful consideration has been given to the need to promote equality of opportunity and to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. Evidence would suggest that social economy policy has a positive impact on equality of opportunity for a number of the Section 75 groups; and in implementing actions in the Strategy, Government Departments will apply their respective statutory equality obligations.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Strategy has been developed in partnership with the social economy sector. It has been widely circulated both within Government and within the sector to identify and address the priority needs of the sector. Government remains committed to developing the social economy sector and values the distinctive role played by SEEs arising from their social and economic objectives.

The Strategy is available on the DETI website [www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk](http://www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk)

Copies can also be obtained from:

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# Introduction

# 1

## **SOCIAL ECONOMY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The social economy is a wide and diverse sector which has been operating and developing over many years and has a strong tradition of supporting local communities in both rural and urban areas.

Across Government Departments, the definition of a Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) includes those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not for personal profit status.

These SEEs contribute to a fairer economy and society; they can create opportunities and training for those who are most marginalised. This is an important contribution to a changing economic landscape particularly in these tough economic times. In the context of the current economic downturn, the role and ability of SEEs to cushion its impact on the local economy will be more important than ever.

The first Programme for Government (PfG) prepared by the Executive of the Northern Ireland Executive, published in April 2001, recognised the potential for the social economy to make a significant contribution to both social and economic regeneration.

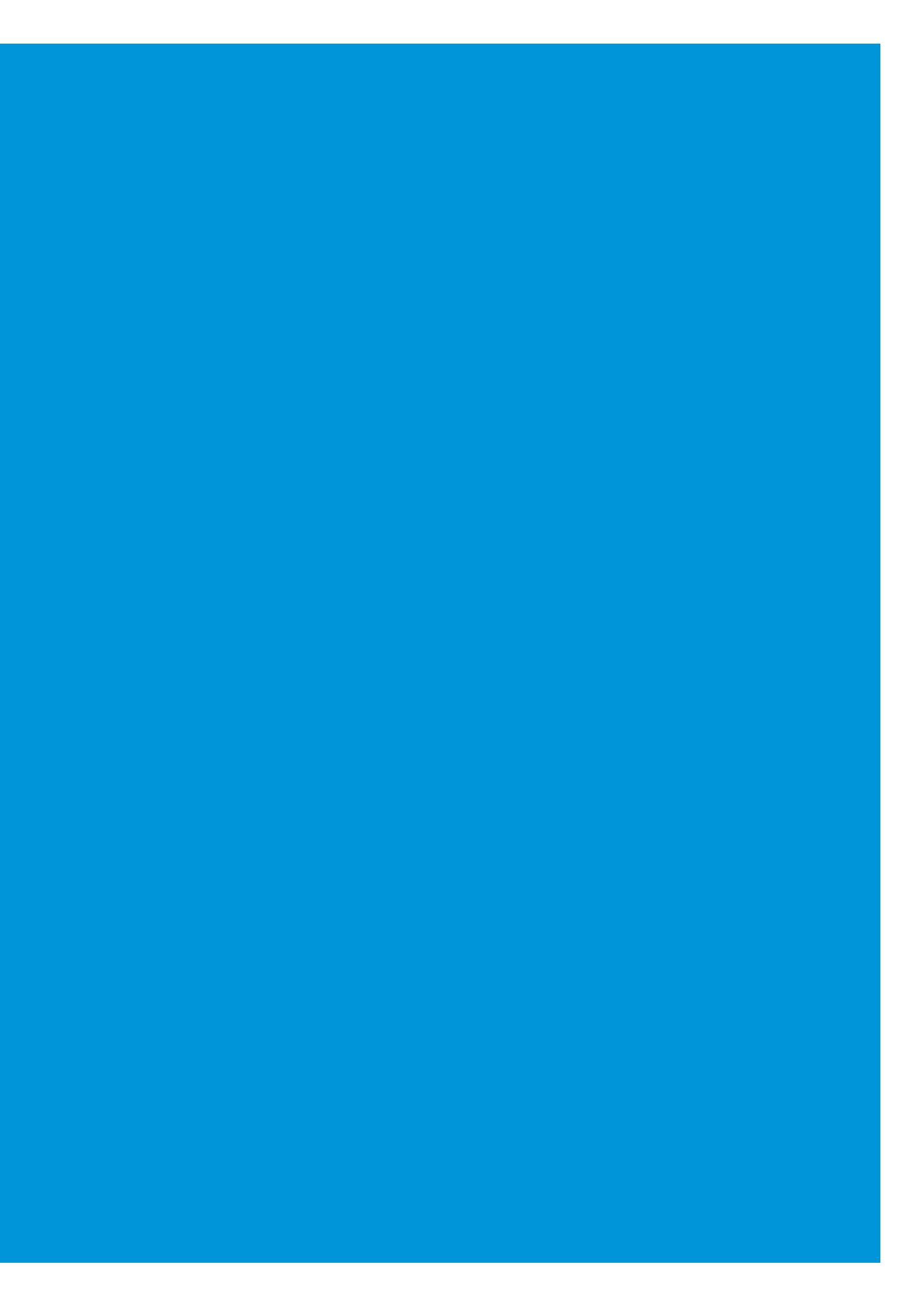
In 2004, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) published a three year Strategic Plan – “Developing a Successful Social Economy” to implement a more integrated approach to the social economy. Three strategic objectives were identified to facilitate Government’s actions. They were to:

- increase awareness of the sector and establish its value to the local economy;
  - develop the sector and increase its business strength; and
  - create a supportive and enabling environment.
- DETI also put in place key structures to support the implementation of the Strategy including:
- an inclusive Social Economy Network (SEN) to represent the sector;
  - an Inter-Departmental Steering Group (IDSG) to develop greater cross-departmental co-operation including preparation of Action Plans; and
  - the Social Economy Forum (SEF) where representatives from the SEN and officials from the IDSG could work in partnership.

More detail on the current social economy support structures is attached at Annex A.

A high level evaluation of the Strategy was completed in March 2007. This concluded that DETI should retain lead responsibility for developing an adapted social economy policy working closely with other relevant Departments/Agencies and the sector to agree a new strategic approach and plan of action.

This work will be taken forward by an IDSG called the Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG) which consists of those Departments most closely involved with the social economy.



# Current Policy Context

## 2

### **PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT**

The over-arching aim of the Programme for Government (PfG) 2008-2011, prepared by the Executive and published in January 2008 is to build a peaceful, fair and prosperous society, with respect for the rule of law and where everyone can enjoy a better quality of life now and in years to come.

The Executive set out in the PfG five strategic and interdependent priorities as follows:

- Growing a Dynamic, Innovative Economy;
- Promote Tolerance, Inclusion and Health and Well-Being;
- Protect and Enhance our Environment and Natural Resources;
- Invest to Build our Infrastructure; and
- Deliver Modern High Quality and Efficient Public Services.

The approach across Government to delivering these priorities will be underpinned by two cross-cutting key themes:

**A shared and better future for all:** equality, fairness, inclusion and the promotion of good relations; and

**Sustainability:** building a sustainable future will be a key requirement for our economic, social and environmental policies and programmes.

In implementing the SEE Strategy policy links with other key strategies such as Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development will be taken into account.

### **GROWING A DYNAMIC INNOVATIVE ECONOMY**

The Executive has identified “growing a dynamic, innovative economy” as the top priority over the next 3 years, with DETI having lead responsibility in delivering on this aim.

DETI's Corporate Plan (2008-2011) sets out the priorities and actions to be undertaken in support of the PfG. They represent an ambitious and challenging agenda to help strengthen the economy.

### **SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISE STRATEGY**

The PfG recognised that part of developing our economy also includes developing the social economy. Government believes that a separate SEE Strategy led by DETI is required to build on the work started by "Developing a Successful Social Economy" (2004). Government want to ensure that social economy enterprise is valued, encouraged and supported.

The vision for this SEE Strategy is:

An enterprise environment which encourages greater social entrepreneurial activity and is supportive of those SEEs that want to grow.

Achievement of this vision will require the co-operation and partnership of a wide range of existing and potential stakeholders including central and local government, the private, social economy and wider voluntary and community sectors. DETI is committed to this vision and will work through the SEPG and the SEN to ensure delivery of this Strategy.

The SEE Strategy is a 3 year transition Strategy in preparation for the enhanced role envisaged under Review of Public Administration (RPA) for district councils in the delivery of social economy policy and programmes.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROGRAMME**

On 31 March 2008 the Minister of the Environment announced the vision for local government, agreed by the Executive, following a review of the previous administration's decisions. The review considered what local government would be expected to deliver in the context of a fully functioning devolved Assembly and Executive. The vision is for a strong, dynamic local government that creates vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe and sustainable communities that have all citizens at their core. The implementation of this vision will require a rationalisation of council numbers combined with a strengthening of functions and activities they carry out and the powers they have to act on behalf of their areas. DETI will consult with district councils on the proposed SEE Strategy and work with the SEN to agree a plan to help ensure that local government is aware of the current and potential contribution of the social economy sector.

DETI will transfer important elements of the current enterprise portfolio to district government. This includes the Start a Business Programme, Youth Entrepreneurship programmes, Investing in Women, the Social Entrepreneurship Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal. DETI will continue to set the overall policy direction in these areas and the SEE Strategy is part of this process.



## **LEARNING FROM SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (ROI)**

DETI officials maintain regular contact with colleagues in England, Scotland, Wales and ROI to exchange knowledge, best practice and new initiatives and opportunities of relevance to the social economy. While there are national and regional variations in approach and priorities, the opportunity to share ideas and learn from other experiences/successes are invaluable as each administration implements its strategies and action plans. Annex B provides a brief overview of the approach being taken in England, Scotland, Wales and the ROI.

In addition to monitoring and evaluation activity within Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK and the ROI, officials will continue to work with the SEN to monitor and assess international best practice and where relevant and appropriate, use this knowledge and experience in the development of policies, programmes and initiatives for the development of the sector.

DETI also remains alert to European policy and the Barroso Taskforce. Where appropriate the Strategy will take account of the Taskforces' social economy recommendations.

A range of measures of the EU PEACE II Programme (2000-2006) supported the social economy. Most significantly, the twenty-six Local Strategy Partnerships (LSPs) delivered €125 million primarily for social economy activities.

Additional supports available under the 2000-2006 PEACE II Programme included support for the development of workspace provision. The social economy sector also benefited from EU funding support delivered by local government.

The 2007-13 PEACE III Programme, which opened to new project applications, has a strengthened focus on activities that directly promote reconciliation. As a result, it has less scope for assisting activities of a social economy nature. However, the partnership principles of the LSPs will be retained under the new Programme as local authorities will continue to cooperate with social partners to develop local Action Plans for their respective areas until 2011 when the RPA is expected to be implemented. Following RPA implementation, local peace-building activities will be led by the new local authorities, again on a partnership basis.

In future, support for local economic development will continue to be supported by the NI Sustainable Competitiveness Programme. The local economic development strand of this programme will encourage and support projects delivering outputs which will benefit the local economy. Proposals will come from local government and should concentrate on innovation, research and development, and entrepreneurship. Finally, applications should demonstrate that the proposed activity fits with local, regional and national strategy.

# Achievements

# 3

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 'DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL ECONOMY 2004-2007'**

Compared to the baseline position in 2001, significant progress has been made in social economy policies and structures. The following is a sample of the achievements from the first Strategy:

### **Increasing awareness of the sector and establishing its value to the local economy**

- We now have good baseline data for nearly 400 SEEs with a total of some 6,700 paid employees, 5,000 volunteers and turnover of just over £355million. The findings, published in June 2007, were transferred to the SEN to help develop its services to its membership and to increase knowledge of the size and scale of the sector;
- On-going focus on the social economy within the sustained Invest NI 'Go For It' campaign on social entrepreneurship, including Social Entrepreneur of the year within Enterprise Week 2006 and 2007;
- The SEN, in conjunction with the School for Social Entrepreneurs in Ireland (SSEI), held its Social Enterprise Day on 16th November 2007, as part of Invest NI's Enterprise Week. The event showcased a range of innovative and inspiring social enterprises and included an award ceremony for NI Social Entrepreneur of the Year; and
- DETI led a programme to ensure that Departments understood the social economy sector and appreciated more fully the contribution it makes to the economy. This also involved the promotion and placement of professionally written case studies on Departmental websites, staff magazines and other sectoral publications.
- DSD has further developed the social capital toolkit through additional research carried out with Community Evaluation NI (CENI), Community Foundation NI (CFNI) and other Government and public sector partners. The resulting research report on "Social Assets - A New Approach to Understanding and Working with Communities" is available on the CFNI and CENI websites.

### **Developing the sector and increasing its business strength**

- Invest NI launched its Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP) in June 2006 to help new and existing SEEs, at various stages of the business cycle, to improve their capability to operate to commercial business models. The SEP achieved all its top line targets within the programme's two year timeframe and resulted in referrals for progression to Invest NI mainstream support for 15 groups relating to 16 projects;
- In 2006 Department for Social Development (DSD) launched its Modernisation Fund which provided funding to groups, including SEEs, aiming to modernise and develop their capacity to become more efficient in the delivery of services. To complement this, Invest NI's SEP also included a component of capacity support, centered on enabling the transition of voluntary and community groups and/or emerging social enterprises availing of the Modernisation Fund;
- Two University based projects were initiated where Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) worked with the social economy sector by allowing access to the universities' extensive information and research resources and curriculum development. The programme partners also included the SSEI whose training within the social economy sector is delivered through University of Ulster's (UU) Business Institute; and

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) commissioned a study which was published in April 2005 aimed at developing and strengthening the social economy sector by identifying interventions and actions to improve the availability of, access to and uptake of business support services by SEEs.

### **Creating a supportive, enabling environment**

- Structures were established to support the development of the sector including the IDSG, the SEN and the SEF;
- The SEN was reconstituted in 2006/7 from an unincorporated body to the newly established Social Economy Network (NI) Ltd. In March 2007 DETI agreed funding of £600k for the 4 year period up to 2011 to support the development and long term sustainability of the SEN as the representative body of the social economy sector;
- In January 2006 Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), within the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), formed a Social Economy Enterprise Working Group which brought together a small and focused team of procurement practitioners and SEEs with direct experience of competitive tendering. CPD also supported the development of a Procurement Guide for SEEs which was launched in February 2005. The Guide was part of a wider programme to help the sector increase their understanding and capability to compete successfully for Government and other public and/or private sector contracts. The full guidance can be found at [www.cpdni.gov.uk/social-economy-enterprises-guidance-pdf.pdf](http://www.cpdni.gov.uk/social-economy-enterprises-guidance-pdf.pdf);

- In March 2007 DETI hosted an awareness raising seminar, attended by around 80 delegates involved in the social economy sector, to alert SEEs and advisors to the sector of new legislation to introduce Community Interest Companies (CICs) as a new legal form of company;
- CPD, in conjunction with DETI, held a 'meet the buyer' event for SEEs in September 2007 designed to increase understanding between the sector and public procurement practitioners. This event provided the opportunity for SEEs and procurement practitioners to focus on common areas of interest in an environment conducive to doing business;
- Since April 2008 CPD has attended up to twenty supplier awareness events, some of which were organised by the SEN, which were attended by in excess of 1,200 representatives from supplier organisations. A further programme of events is planned to build on this work.
- CPD provides feedback to unsuccessful tenderers in the form of tender debriefing. The purpose of this is to inform tenderers of the strengths and weaknesses of their tenders and is a way of helping them improve their competitive performance.
- The NetWORKS 2008 Trade Event for Social Enterprises, funded by Co-operation Ireland and the International Fund for Ireland and organised by UCIT, took place on 10 June 2008 at St George's Market, Belfast and was the first event organised exclusively to provide a platform for SEEs to focus on trade. Over 900 people attended the event with 87 social enterprises from across Ireland taking the opportunity to exhibit at the event and network with potential new buyers; and
- DETI supported the SSEI in its development of a portfolio of high quality university accredited business and management programmes for the sector. Since the SSEI's inception over 200 leaders and managers in the third sector have completed social enterprise, management and leadership development programmes.
- On Thursday 25 June 2009 Work West Enterprise Agency officially launched their £1.4m Social Economy Village development creating 36 jobs and providing a business hub for social enterprises to start up and grow. The development offers a mix of office accommodation and workspace units available for occupation by a range of service based and manufacturing SEEs.

Strategic objectives /  
Areas for future action

# 4

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

An independent evaluation of Government's first SE Strategy confirmed that considerable progress has been made since 2001, when the term "social economy" first appeared in a Northern Ireland policy context. Views on the effectiveness and impact of the first Strategy were wide ranging, however the evidence points to there being a strong and sound rationale for continuing with a social economy policy that embraces the three initial strategic objectives.

The three objectives are as follows:

- Increasing awareness of the sector and establishing its value to the local economy;
- developing the sector and increasing its business strength; and
- creating a supportive, enabling environment.

Government, working in partnership with the social economy sector, has already helped to increase awareness of the sector, establish its value to the local economy, increase its business strength and create a more supportive and enabling environment. The evaluation reported that most progress has been made on the third objective, followed by the first. We are keen to see further progress on the second objective.

Our focus will be on developing the business strength of SEEs to reach a scale and capability in which they can contribute to the overall viability and sustainability of the sector and ultimately the local economy. There is a rationale for supporting and encouraging the establishment of new organisations which seek to meet the needs of deprived communities and/or address aspects of Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy.

## AREAS FOR FUTURE ACTION

### Roles of Departments and the Sector

**DETI** will have the lead role in developing an integrated approach to the social economy and managing the implementation of this 'refreshed' SEE Strategy. DETI will also work with key Departments/Agencies and the sector to build SEE's capacity and capability.

**Invest NI** support will be available to SEEs within the new comprehensive Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP). It replaces the previous SEP with a more flexible offering with support for 3 market segments of pre start / start up, existing social enterprises and transitional groups in the community and voluntary sector investigating the potential of a social enterprise model. The focus is on the growth potential of the business.

The SEP has 4 entry points and there are opportunities to progress within the programme. The programme introduces new funding sources at the start up phase and it continues targeting areas of disadvantage. While there will continue to be a "core" offering, programme resources will be skewed to those SEEs that show growth potential and / or are likely to deliver the greatest additionality. The focus will be on a commercial business model and on building the skills and capabilities of the social entrepreneur and business development and in ensuring that those SEEs which are capable of making a significant economic impact get appropriate support in a timely fashion.

It is anticipated that over 100 groups per annum will receive assistance under the SEP through its range of support interventions. The programme will be available across Northern Ireland and will be delivered by a delivery agent on behalf of Invest NI. An SEP Stakeholder Group will focus on linkages and synergies with other relevant support mechanisms and stakeholders and will provide a means for 2 way communication on current activities and new initiatives.

**Invest NI** will also programme manage (alongside **DEL**) the delivery of the pilot Social Economy Fund (SEF). This pilot programme was developed as part of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Task Force (WBGSTF) and is delivered by the Employment Services Board. The programme represents a specific employability intervention to individuals with employment placement in new SEEs. The pilot project will support a minimum of 25 placements with 75% of those recruited to the posts still in post or mainstream employment after two years. One of the key criteria in considering placement allocations has been maximising the impact on the business development and growth of the SEE. Other potential outcomes and lasting benefits within the Social Enterprise context are:

- Contribution to local and sustainable wealth creation in a deprived area;
- To contribute to the a survival rate of 70% within SEP; and
- Linked to the above to achieve a conversion rate of 50% to 'pull through' to Invest NI's mainstream/Business Development Support portfolio.



**Invest NI** will commission an ongoing evaluation of this pilot programme in early 2009.

DfPs **Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)** will work with the SEPG and the sector to raise awareness of public tendering processes and to explore ways of addressing barriers to public procurement.

Consider responses to the recent consultation on the Dormant Account Scheme to ensure that a focused set of priorities under the general definition of "social or environmental purposes" is established which provide real benefit to all communities across Northern Ireland.

**DSD** will have lead responsibility for a range of strategies such as Advice, Neighbourhood Renewal, Volunteering and Support Services which encourage and support a more enterprising voluntary and community sector. In particular through its Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy it will encourage those that see merit in the SEE model and signpost them to the right type of business support.

**DARD** will support the sector through opportunities within the Rural Development Programme (RDP) to support enterprise (including SEEs) by encouraging the wider rural community to avail of support under the RDP. DARD will offer an enhanced rate of up to 75% to a maximum of £250k for SEEs under Axis 3 of the RDP. DARD will work with the SEN, which has substantial membership from rural entrepreneurs, to identify opportunities for the sector. DARD will also make opportunities available to the Social Economy sector via the £10 million Rural Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion Programme.

**Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)** will facilitate closer working relationships between SEN and the Health and Social Care organisations which have responsibility for contracting with SEEs while complying with the existing EU Regulatory Framework.

**DEL** will support organisations, including SEEs, to develop and professionalise through a range of programmes designed to help them access training, including management training and skills development, to improve managerial and leadership competence.

The **SEN** will work with stakeholders to promote the concept of the social economy as one which combines a focus on tradable income alongside a social mission. It will represent and articulate the views of the social economy sector, and facilitate access to high quality development support and opportunities. Further information on the SEN can be found at [www.socialeconomynetwork.org](http://www.socialeconomynetwork.org)

The **SSEI** will promote sustainable community economic development through delivery of its range of programmes to build leadership, management and organisational capability within SEEs. Further information on School for Social Entrepreneurs can be found at [www.sse.org.uk](http://www.sse.org.uk)

**UCIT** will provide loan finance, free advice, business support and mentoring to the social economy sector. It will work with Invest NI to assist SEEs supported by the SEP and to find new and sustainable ways of financing the sector including the availability of a loan product to suit the social economy sector. Further information on UCIT can be found at [www.ucitltd.org](http://www.ucitltd.org)

Northern Ireland Government Departments will work with the sector, through a range of actions developed and implemented in partnership with the sector, to achieve the three strategic objectives. These include:

**Objective 1:**

**Increasing awareness of the sector and establishing its value to the local economy**

There is a broad recognition across Government and within the social economy sector that more work is needed to raise awareness of what the sector is and how it benefits the local economy and communities in a unique and effective way.

Raising the profile of SEEs will be key to ensuring that this business model is recognised as a viable option to do business. This will be realised by exploring opportunities to increase local knowledge and understanding and measuring the impact of SEE activity.

**Action 1.1**

**Increasing our knowledge and understanding**

The **SEN** will:

- undertake activities to raise the profile of the sector by encouraging SEEs to apply for local and national sector specific business awards;
- work with the Community Interest Company (CIC) Regulator to increase awareness of CICs as an alternative company model. Further information on the CIC Regulator can be found at [www.cicregulator.gov.uk](http://www.cicregulator.gov.uk); and
- work with the membership to raise the profile of the sector through promotion of the work of SEEs in the local press and relevant sectoral publications.

**DETI** will:

- in partnership with the SEPG and SEN work with the Local Enterprise Development (LED) Forum to ensure that the local authorities are fully engaged in the implementation of the Executive's strategic plan for developing the social economy sector;
- work in partnership with the SEPG, SEN and local authorities to raise awareness of the sector through a range of initiatives (inc visits, case studies, strategic awareness sessions, master classes etc). This will include initiatives to raise awareness of the sector across Executive departments; and
- work with the SEPG to explore opportunities for integrating social economy policy into Departmental planning and also liaise with European, UK and ROI social economy counterparts to inform policy development decisions and to share best practice.

**Invest NI** will:

- increase awareness of the sector through sponsorship of sector specific events and article placement. A key event will be the NI heat of the UK wide Enterprising Britain competition which invites applications from initiatives that demonstrate community transformation through enterprise. All of this work will be within the overall "Go For It" promotional campaign.

**DSD** will:

- raise awareness of the social economy sector through mechanisms such as the Government Funding database and NI Voluntary and Community database;

- explore how Departmental and sectoral representatives can be engaged in social economy policy issue discussions through the joint Government Voluntary Sector Forum; and
- engage and share information, in relation to the social economy, with a number of UK and ROI fora involving representatives from Government departments and the regional voluntary sector representative bodies.

**DHSSPS will:**

- establish contacts between SEN and Health and Social Care organisations to encourage the promotion and sharing of knowledge and understanding through the dissemination of best practice learning and information; and
- facilitate closer links between SEN and Health and Social Care Procurement Advisory Group within the HSC Board, in order to explore how they can work together to provide effective, efficient services within Health and Social Care, whilst benefitting from the wider social advantages that SEEs can offer.

**DARD will:**

- work with the SEN and the Rural Network to identify opportunities to jointly raise awareness of the SEN and the sector within rural communities, monitor uptake of opportunities through the RDP, and take action to address areas of low uptake.

**DEL will:**

- through the Career Service, continue to update its website and Careers Advisors to increase awareness and understanding of social economy developments in order to better inform its clients of the sector's potential.

**Action 1.2**

**Measuring the impact**

**Invest NI will:**

- as part of on-going programme evaluation, measure the social, financial and economic impacts of the sector, by measuring the social impact of enterprises supported within the SEP and SEF;

**DSD will:**

- consider the findings and opportunities of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) research, due to be published early 2009, into VCS involvement in public service delivery to assess how government is working to build capacity of the voluntary sector (including the SEEs);

**Departments will:**

- consider how to measure the level of uptake of their respective programmes/initiatives by SEEs and how to record this information for future analysis.

## **Objective 2:**

### **Developing the sector and increasing its business strength**

The evaluation of 'Developing a Successful Social Economy 2004-2007' indicated that further progress on the objective of 'Developing the sector and increasing its business strength' should be a future priority. Providing access to effective business development support will help to ensure the development and business growth of SEEs with the principal emphasis on improving sustainability. This will include a focus on developing the business strength of existing SEEs to reach a scale and capability in which they can contribute to the overall viability and sustainability of the sector and building the business skills of SEEs.

#### **Action 2.1**

##### **Providing support for business growth**

###### **SEN will:**

- promote and encourage its members to access relevant business development support programmes and will work with members to highlight and address gaps in provision; and
- continue to lobby for improvements in the public procurement process to increase scope for SEEs to compete successfully for public sector contracts.

###### **DETI will:**

- explore with a range of finance lenders what can be done to help develop and support the SE sector.

###### **DETI and Invest NI will:**

- work with **UCIT** on the identification and design of innovative financial products and support services to assist in the development of the sector. This will include a new Flexible Enterprise Fund for start up social enterprises offering loan funding within the SEP.

###### **DETI, supported by CPD, will:**

- work with the **SEN** to facilitate up to two meetings per annum of the Social Economy Enterprise Procurement Group. CPD will help inform the group to increase awareness of the tendering process and break down barriers to procurement.

###### **Invest NI will:**

- assist in the growth of the social economy sector with a continuance of the SEP, which focuses on business growth and offers a range of assistance to develop new and existing SEEs;
- monitor the delivery of the pilot SEF Programme for West Belfast and Greater Shankill, and consider with DEL the findings of the programme evaluation in determining the way forward. The SEF was launched in June 2008, to:
  - bring Long Term Unemployed (LTU) into the labour market, maximising the opportunity for linkage between SEEs and the various employability interventions in the area; and
  - be an additional resource 'anchored' to Invest NI's SEP to broker the recruitment and employment of those from the labour market;

- provide business development support to SEEs within the Growth Programme of the new Enterprise Development Programme for those businesses which have met the VAT threshold; and
- support the maintenance and future development of the [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk) site to ensure the delivery of continued best practice information to the NI businesses.

**CPD** will:

- have appropriate systems in place to allow access by Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and SEEs to opportunities for doing business with CPD; and
- encourage other Central Government bodies to use this common platform (eSourcingNI) to achieve a more coordinated approach to advertising Public Sector Tenders. It is anticipated that all Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) will have fully implemented eSourcing NI by March 2010.

**DARD** will:

- support existing and new SEEs in rural areas via grants and support offered through the RDP and the Rural Anti Poverty Framework.
- through Axis 3 the RDP with a budget in excess of £100m, will provide opportunities to support enterprise (including SEEs). The wider rural community will be encouraged to avail of the support opportunities offered under the RDP. All

but measure 3.2 (Farm diversification) will be open to SEEs. Under eligible measures an enhanced grant rate of up to 75% will be available to SEEs.

- DARD will also work with the SEN, which has substantial membership from rural entrepreneurs, and Rural Networks so that Local Action Groups are aware of sectoral opportunities; and
- DARD is delivering a Rural Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework (worth £10 million) up to 2011. It has five priorities; Rural Childcare, Rural Transport, Rural Fuel Poverty, Rural Community Development and a Rural Challenge Programme. This programme will be open to applications from the SEE sector.

**DHSSPS** will:

- establish links between the SEN and the Social Care Procurement Advisory Group to discuss SEEs contracting with Health and Social Care organisations while complying with the existing EU Regulatory Framework; and
- continue to disseminate information on national and international best practice relating to SEEs operating within Health and Social Care.

**The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)** will:

- work with the SEN to identify opportunities for SEEs to engage in the delivery of local tourism services.

## **Action 2.2**

### **Building the business skills of SEEs**

**DETI** will:

- support the work of the **SSEI** to build leadership, management and organisation capability in the sector.

**CPD** has:

- delivered basic training in sustainable procurement to procurement practitioners, including the integration of equality and sustainable development (social, economic and environmental issues) into public sector procurement. The guidance on 'Equality of Opportunity and Sustainable Development in Public Procurement', published in May 2008, can be found at [www.cpdni.gov.uk](http://www.cpdni.gov.uk) or [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org).

**DEL** will:

- assist in professionalising the social economy sector through curriculum development and by encouraging the provision of innovative and flexible programmes tailored to the needs of the sector;
- provide ongoing financial support under the second round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) for 2 university based projects providing community and voluntary groups with access to the universities' extensive information and research resources;

- support capacity-building by providing leaders and managers with a wide variety of management development training options; and

- provide 100% subsidy to assist with first time assessment against the Investors in People standard.

### **Objective 3:**

#### **Creating a supportive and enabling environment**

A more explicit proposal in this Strategy will be to look at opportunities to develop the concept of the social economy as a valuable tool for the delivery of public policies, and the contribution which SEEs can make to the effective, efficient and equitable delivery of public services to communities.

Challenges ahead, for Government and the sector, will be to work together to build on the evidence base, foster a culture of social enterprise and create the conditions and opportunities for SEEs to develop and thrive.

### **Action 3.1**

#### **Building the evidence base**

The **SEN** will:

- engage with local Councils to promote SEEs as potential suppliers of goods and services;
- develop and maintain a detailed database on the size/scale of the sector and develop a 'Trade Directory' of services and goods supplied by the sector. Both will be updated on a monthly basis; and

- collate intelligence from its membership and undertake research to identify sectoral issues to inform/lobby policy makers. This work will be taken forward from June to August 2009 and the findings will be updated on an annual basis thereafter.

**DETI** will:

- consider how to identify gaps in the knowledge of the sector and what steps can be taken to develop the evidence base to demonstrate how it can contribute to the delivery of quality public services.

**DETI/SEPG** will:

- work with the SEN to pro-actively promote its membership.

**Invest NI** will

- through an enhanced innovation vouchers scheme, as part of its contribution to the Regional Innovation Strategy in NI, provide SMEs including SEEs with access to technical support from publicly funded research institutions throughout the island of Ireland. The initiative aims to help Northern Ireland registered small enterprises establish links with the regions' Knowledge Providers (universities, colleges and publicly funded research bodies in NI or ROI) to solve knowledge problems. More info at [www.innovationvouchers.com](http://www.innovationvouchers.com).

**DSD** will:

- work with the SEN to consider how the Government Funding Database and other sources of information on the sector can be captured to contribute to the evidence base on the size and scale of the sector and what its potential is for growth. It is planned to add to the government funding database details of expenditure from Trusts and District Councils from 2010/2011; and
- through its contact with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS), share relevant information with Departments and the sector on the Third Sector research initiative.

**Action 3.2**

**Fostering a SEE culture**

The **SEN** will:

- promote the value of membership and encourage Credit Unions to become part of the social economy sector. The SEN will engage with Credit Unions, signpost to relevant training and business development and lend support to their lobbying activities.

**DETI** will:

- support the development of a sustainable SEN until 2011 in line with its package of financial assistance;

- commission an external evaluation of the SEE Strategy in 2010 – 2011 which will include an assessment of the contribution of social economy structures in meeting the strategic objectives and the impact of the Strategy on the sector; and
- supported by **CPD**, work with the **SEN** to facilitate up to two 'meet the buyer' events per annum across Northern Ireland to bring public sector procurement practitioners into contact with SMEs and SEEs.
- measure and report on the effectiveness of the guidance in 2011;
- provide information on the CPD website about best practice examples of public sector contracts that have integrated sustainability, including social goals; and
- use the CPD website to promote awareness across Procurement Practitioners about equality and sustainability within public procurement.

**DSD** Development Offices will:

**DARD** by continuing to support Rural Community Development will:

- provide for capacity building, support and training which will have a positive impact upon SEEs, by developing people, confidence and skills within the rural community; and
- support collaborations between the Rural Network and the SEN that promote the sector in Rural areas.
- work with **Invest NI** to determine how action plans and priorities, developed for each of the Neighbourhood Renewal areas, can provide opportunities to improve social enterprise, self employment and small businesses in these areas of high deprivation;
- work with **Invest NI** to explore opportunities to work together on common areas of interest between Neighbourhood Renewal and Invest NI's SEP;

**CPD** will:

- monitor and report annually on the success of SEEs competing for the delivery of public service contracts;
- monitor and report twice yearly to the Procurement Board on how CoPEs and Departments are embedding equality of opportunity and sustainable development into their procurement practice;
- consult and work with the VCS and social economy sector in developing the new Volunteering Strategy for NI;
- have lead responsibility for a range of strategies to encourage and support a more enterprising VCS such as the Advice and Support Services Strategies. These will outline a NI wide structure



and approach linked into the new councils to underpin the delivery of support by sub regional organisations that provide a range of support and advice services to local voluntary and community groups;

- explore what opportunities there are for the Charity Commission for NI to work with the social economy sector; and
- undertake evaluations of the Modernisation Revenue Fund and the Modernisation Capital Fund programmes and share the key lessons arising from both strands with Northern Ireland Departments and the sector.

The **Regional Supplies Service (RSS) of DHSSPS**, which acts on behalf of Health and Social Care bodies in a wide range of contracts, will:

- explore the most effective mechanism for integrating equality of opportunity and sustainable development into its procurement processes; and
- Business Services Organisation (BSO) will continue to implement its Sustainable Procurement Action Plan to deliver sustainable development priorities within its portfolio of contracts which will allow for the inclusion, as appropriate, of social, economic and environmental goals.

**DFP** will:

- consider, subject to legislative requirements, how the social economy sector can benefit from the developing policy on how unclaimed assets in dormant bank and building society accounts may be spent for social or environmental purposes.

**DEL** will:

- continue to actively engage with the SEN; and

**Departments**, in partnership with **DHSSPS/CPD/DETI** will:

- facilitate workshops for and develop case studies of effective delivery of public services by SEEs.

# Monitoring, Reporting on Progress and Evaluation of the Social Economy Enterprise Strategy

# Monitoring, Reporting on Progress and Evaluation of the Social Economy Enterprise Strategy

# 5

## **INTRODUCTION**

In developing the SEE Strategy, Government and the social economy sector are committed to a range of actions designed to deliver the key strategic objectives as outlined in Chapter 4. It is therefore important to be able to demonstrate the extent to which progress will be monitored in achieving these actions, what role the social economy structures will play in reporting and evaluating progress, and how the implementation of the actions will contribute to the success of the Strategy. As a result we want to ensure effective monitoring arrangements are put in place to make sure we measure the impact of the Strategy.

### **The role of the Social Economy structures in monitoring and reporting progress against strategic objectives**

As the key contributors to the actions in the Strategy the SEN, SEPG and the SEF will have a key role in monitoring and reporting progress against the agreed strategic objectives within this document.

DETI and the SEN will exchange reports on progress against objectives at regular progress meetings and also twice yearly at SEF meetings.

The SEPG will manage the implementation of the Action Plan. DETI will lead on the preparation of annual progress reports, with input from the SEPG, the SEN and other stakeholders, to include any revisions to the action plan for the duration of the Strategy. Annual progress reports will be published on the DETI Social Economy website [www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk](http://www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk)

We recognise that the Action Plan may evolve as it progresses and it will be re-evaluated and reviewed where necessary to take account of the changing environment.

## **Evaluation**

In evaluating the impact of the SEE Strategy an external evaluation will be carried out in 2010-11 to assess (a) to what extent the strategic objectives have been achieved (b) how effectively and to what extent the social economy structures have contributed to the delivery of the strategic objectives and (c) what impact the Strategy has had on the sector.

# Equality and other impact assessments

# 6

## **EQUALITY**

As part of the development of the SEE Strategy, and in line with our commitment to fulfilling our statutory equality duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, DETI has given careful consideration to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Between persons with dependants and persons without.

We have also considered the need to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. As part of this process, DETI has completed a draft Policy and Legislation Screening Form which indicates that social economy policy has a positive impact on equality of opportunity for a number of

the Section 75 groups. The conclusions in this form were informed by available information taken from data collected for DETI's July 2007 survey of SEEs in Northern Ireland. Further anecdotal information received as part of the evaluation of the first SE Strategy also indicated that certain Section 75 groups benefitted from the Strategy, e.g. women, children, people with a disability. There are also plans to collect further information on SEEs through the SEN.

In implementing the actions in this cross departmental Strategy, Government Departments will be required to fulfil their statutory equality duties and to have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity and have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between the groups highlighted above.

After careful consideration DETI has decided to screen out the policy on the basis that this is a refreshed Strategy document based largely on existing programmes. It is a high level Strategy document and the equality issues raised in the screening form will be further explored by individual departments and agencies in implementing actions flowing from the Strategy.

### **OTHER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

In developing the SEE Strategy consideration has been given to the impact this Strategy might have across a range of social, economic and environmental issues. It is considered that this Strategy is likely to have a positive impact across a breadth of industries and social groups in both urban and rural areas. As with equality issues, when implementing the actions in this Strategy, Departments will be required to have due regard to the impact of these actions across a range of areas as appropriate including Health, Targeting Social Need, Regulatory and Rural. This position will be monitored as part of the 'monitoring and evaluation' arrangements to measure the impact of this Strategy.



# Review of the Consultation Process



# 7

The overall purpose of the strategy is to build on the success of the first social economy strategy and to establish a shared and agreed policy for the continuing development of the Executive's Social Economy Enterprise sector.

It aims to outline proposals that will address the needs of the sector; how stakeholders can contribute to its development and also develop a cohesive and more effective cross-Departmental approach in support of the Social Economy sector and in line with the priorities within the Programme for Government.

## **Consultation Exercise**

The draft strategy was developed following pre-consultation discussions with an extensive range of stakeholders including the SEN as the representative body for the sector.

Following Executive approval the draft strategy was issued for consultation on 17th August 2009 to a wide range of stakeholders including organisations identified within DETI's Equality Scheme, members

of the SEN, MLAs, District Councils and parties with an interest in developing the sector. The document was also made available through Departmental and SEN websites.

In partnership with the SEN, DETI held three consultation workshops outlining the key elements of the strategy to audiences in Belfast, Londonderry and Lurgan.

The consultation closed on 9th October 2009.

## **Responses**

Responses were received from 21 organisations in the following categories;

- 9 District Councils,
- 5 Non Departmental Public Bodies,
- 3 Voluntary/Community organisations,
- 1 Business Organisation,
- 1 Higher Education Institution,
- 1 Finance related organisation, and
- 1 Social Economy company.

A full list of respondees, in alphabetical order, can be found at Annex C.

### **Overview of Consultation Responses**

Responses were mainly supportive, both generally and in relation to the specific questions posed regarding Objectives, Actions and Monitoring and Evaluation. Given the significant interest from Councils, the main area of concern was their role and the need to be consulted/involved in future delivery.

For those who might be interested in reviewing the responses in more detail, access to a full copy of the responses is available through the DETI website - [www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk](http://www.socialeconomy.detini.gov.uk) or by hard copy on request to Social Economy Branch in DETI.



## **Annex A**

Social Economy Support Structures

## **Annex B**

Summary of Social Economy  
Enterprise activity in the  
United Kingdom and  
Republic of Ireland

## **Annex C**

List of Consultation Respondees

## **Annex D**

Glossary of terms

## **SOCIAL ECONOMY SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

### **Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG)**

DETI have formed a new and smaller SEPG chaired by DETI, to replace the IDSG. This group consists of those Departments most closely involved with the social economy including Invest NI as they will have a lead role in programme delivery; DSD in view of their policy and delivery role for the Voluntary and Community sector; Central Procurement Directorate in DFP and DEL, DHSSPS and DARD (see membership below). DETI will require the full engagement of these Departments to help deliver the actions outlined in this Strategy.

Invest NI is responsible for the delivery of DETI's policies and strategies in relation to business support. They will have a key role in terms of implementing and delivering the SEE Strategy and primarily through the SEP and other activities and initiatives to promote the social economy enterprise model.

### **Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG)**

DFP (CPD)	Business Planning and Co-ordination Branch
DARD	Rural Policy Branch
DSD	Voluntary Community Unit
DEL	Strategy & Equality Branch
DHSSPS	Office of Social Services
Invest NI	Entrepreneurship Development Team
DETI	Social Economy Branch

### **Social Economy Network (NI) Ltd (SEN)**

The development of a strong and sustainable SEN supporting the sector was a key element in the Government's Social Economy Strategy. From 2002-2006, funding totalling £600,000 was provided by DSD and Invest NI to the Social Economy Agency as Network Co-ordinating Agent to facilitate the establishment of the Network.

In October 2005, an Economic Appraisal confirmed the ongoing need and rationale for further Government support for the development and sustainability of the Network. The best value for money option to secure a more independent and sustainable SEN was the creation of a new corporate entity with a Board of Directors and directly employed staff.

Following a review the SEN was incorporated during August 2006 as a Company limited by Guarantee. DETI is currently the sole funder with a Letter of Offer in place for a phased reducing grant of £600,000 to be paid over the next four year period up to 2011 to enable the transition to a more independent and income generating organisation.

The Board (see membership below) is keen to build a fully inclusive Network to enable the sector to operate in a more structured and coherent way. They are aware that funding from Government on this scale will not be available post 2011. The challenge for the SEN is to make the most of this opportunity and work with a committed and engaged membership towards an inclusive and sustainable Network enabling the sector to operate in a more structured and coherent way. It puts the onus on the SEN to work with the members to play its part to raise the profile of the sector, make use of available tools to prove its social impact, develop its capacity to deliver products and services to market and attract and retain new entrants.

### **Board of Social Economy Network (NI) Ltd**

Audrey Murray (Chair) – Larne Enterprise Development Agency

Brian Howe (Treasurer) – Ulster Community Investment Trust Limited

Aisling Owens (Secretary) – Lisburn Enterprise Organisation

Claire Ferris – Workwest

Anna McAleavy – Northern Ireland Co operative Forum

Ken Nelson – Enterprise Northern Ireland

Paul Roberts – Ashton Community Trust

Chris Williamson – Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

Trevor Wright – Extern Recycle

Brian McCrory – Irish League of Credit Unions

Arthur Savage – Ulster Support Employment Limited

Kerry Patterson – University of Ulster

### **Staff**

Anne Graham (Director),  
Stephanie McManus (Administrative support) and  
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### **Social Economy Forum (SEF)**

The SEF is a joint meeting of representatives from the SEPG and the SEN, co-chaired by DETI and the SEN. The SEF provides a platform to enable representatives from the SEN and officials from Government to work together. This partnership was formed to enable the sector to raise and debate key issues in a high level policy forum, contribute to ongoing policy change and work in partnerships through shared learning and expertise to champion the social economy.

On occasion the SEF might consider inviting relevant Ministers or expert speakers to attend meetings as appropriate and it is envisaged that the SEF will agree a forward programme of meetings with agreed topics.

The Forum will normally meet twice a year although further meetings can be called as and when necessary.

## **SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

### **England**

The first Government Strategy for social enterprise, *Social Enterprise: A Strategy for Success*, was published by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in 2002. This led to the creation of a new legal form, the CIC; improved business support, advice and the availability of finance; and supported the establishment of the Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC) to provide a voice for the sector.

In 2006 the OTS was created in the Cabinet Office, with its own dedicated Minister for the Third Sector with the remit to develop an environment which enables the whole sector, including social enterprise, to thrive.

OTS launched the Social Enterprise Action Plan: *Scaling New Heights* in November 2006 which builds on the original Strategy. The Social Enterprise Action Plan sets out the Government's cross-department commitment to create the conditions for more social enterprises to thrive by:

- Fostering a culture of social enterprise;
- Ensuring the right information and advice are available to social enterprises;
- Enabling social enterprises to access appropriate finance; and
- Enabling social enterprises to work with government.

The Third Sector Review, published in July 2007 reinforced the commitment to the actions in the Action Plan and made additional commitments to support social enterprise over the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) Years 2008-2011. These include:

- Promoting social enterprise;
- Building the evidence base; and
- Social Investment.



### **Scotland**

The Government Economic Strategy (2007) outlines the purpose of the Scottish Government, which is to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increased sustainable economic growth. The strategy places the Third Sector at the heart of Scottish Government with a role in helping to achieve this purpose. The Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan, published in June 2008, goes on to explain in more detail how the Scottish Government intends to create the right environment in which an enterprising Third Sector can fulfil its role in the development, design and delivery of policy and services in Scotland. This goal will be taken forward by means of two key paths: investment, and non-financial support.

Firstly, they will invest in those enterprising organisations within the Third Sector that have the right business skills to deliver high quality services to those that need them, whilst moving towards financial sustainability and reducing organisational dependency on grants. Direct financial support is currently being provided through the Scottish Investment Fund, comprising £30m to be delivered between 2008 - 2011 and beyond, which is designed to build capacity, capability and financial sustainability in the third sector.

Further direct funding is expected to be provided by the Third Sector Enterprise Fund – for organisations that want to operate in an enterprising way – and the Social Entrepreneurs' Fund – for those wishing to start new social enterprises. Details on these two funds have not yet been finalised.

Secondly, they will work on the local level to promote the circumstances in which an enterprising Third Sector can thrive. Local priorities, partnerships and collaboration are now crucial in Scotland, as most of the responsibility for delivery and therefore funding for the Third Sector has been devolved down to local authorities, and the role of central government is therefore primarily to facilitate, support and encourage local partnership working.

### **Wales**

The first Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales was published in June 2005. A Social Enterprise Joint Working Group bringing together departmental officials, specialist support agencies and practitioners running social enterprises has been co-ordinating action and tracking progress.

In January 2008 the Assembly Government published 'The Third Dimension', a strategic action plan giving a clear direction to its engagement with the Third Sector. Accelerating the number, scale and impact of social enterprises in Wales is a key priority, and all Assembly Government departments as well as the wider public sector have been challenged to identify opportunities for social enterprises to compete to deliver high quality and personalised public services and other benefits such as local wealth creation and community regeneration, in inclusive and sustainable ways.

Additionally, the Assembly Government's progressive agenda, One Wales, emphasises the potential for social enterprise to meet a variety of social, economic and environmental needs. The Social Enterprise Action Plan, launched in early 2009, sets out how an environment where social enterprise can continue growth and assist in delivering One Wales commitments. This has also led to the creation of the post of Deputy Minister for Regeneration who, with the assistance of an Inter-Departmental Regeneration Board, strives to increase the contribution made by social enterprises within broader regeneration schemes.

The aims and objectives for social enterprise, as outlined in the 2005 Strategy, remain unchanged as follows:

#### **Aims:**

- creation of an environment that encourages new social enterprises and capitalises on opportunities for growth;
- the establishment of integrated support for the sector involving mainstream and specialist agencies leading to; and
- the creation of a thriving social enterprise sector in Wales.

#### **Objectives:**

- create an enabling environment for social enterprise;
- make social enterprises better businesses;
- establish the value of social enterprises; and
- encourage the development of new opportunities.

### **Republic of Ireland**

Until 2006, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Social Economy Programme in the Republic of Ireland, was operated by FAS (Foras Aiseanna Saothaire, the Training and Employment Authority in the ROI). In January 2006, the Government transferred responsibility for the programme to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. The name of the programme was changed to the Community Services Programme (CSP) and it is managed on behalf of the Department by POBAL - a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU.

The CSP provides funding to community enterprises to deliver essential local services to, and employ people from, disadvantaged communities. Given the differing needs of people in communities around Ireland, the type of services and beneficiaries supported is diverse. In 2007, the CSP provided support to over 341 community businesses totalling €40.8M including contributions to start-up costs, managers' salaries, workers' wages, non-wage costs and technical support. Further research, as well as analysis of primary data from groups, will continue to inform the programme's development and support services.

## **LIST OF CONSULTATION RESPONDEES**

Ballymoney Borough Council  
Belfast City Council  
Bryson Charitable Group  
Castlereagh Borough Council  
Coleraine Borough Council  
Cresco Trust  
Derry City Council  
Disability Action  
Down District Council  
Enterprise NI  
Fermanagh District Council  
Institute of Directors  
Limavady Borough Council  
Lisburn City Council  
Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action  
Northern Ireland Tourist Board  
Rural Development Council  
School for Social Entrepreneurs in Ireland  
Social Economy Network (NI) Ltd  
Ulster Community Investment Trust  
Work West Enterprise Agency

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CENI	Community Evaluations Northern Ireland
CICs	Community Interest Companies
CPD	Central Procurement Directorate
CSP	Community Service Programme
CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DEL	Department for Employment and Learning
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DH	Department of Health
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
DSD	Department for Social Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EU	European Union
HEIF	Higher Education Innovation Fund
IDSG	Interdepartmental Steering Group
Invest NI	Invest Northern Ireland
LED	Local Enterprise Development Forum
LSP	Local Strategy Partnership
LTU	Long Term Unemployed
NI	Northern Ireland
NIAO	Northern Ireland Audit Office
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
OFMdfM	Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister
OTS	Office of the Third Sector

PFG	Programme for Government
ROI	Republic of Ireland
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RPA	Review of Public Administration
RSS	Regional Supplies Service
SEC	Social Enterprise Coalition
SEE	Social Economy Enterprise
SEEs	Social Economy Enterprises
SEF	Social Economy Forum
SEF	Social Economy Fund
SEIDSG	Social Economy Inter-Departmental Steering Group
SEN	Social Economy Network (NI) Ltd
SEP	Social Entrepreneurship Programme
SEPG	Social Economy Policy Group
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SSEI	School for Social Entrepreneurs in Ireland
UCIT	Ulster Community Investment Trust
UK	United Kingdom
UU	University of Ulster
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
WBGSTF	West Belfast Greater Shankill Task Force





Department of

**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**

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