

From: Gabriel O'Connell
Sent: 08 May 2019 13:54
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: Draft Social Enterprise Policy consultation.
Attachments: Social Enterprise Submission - Monaghan Integrated Development.docx

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached our submission in relation to the Government's recently published 'draft Social Enterprise Policy' on behalf of the Board of Monaghan Integrated Development CLG. We welcome the publication of the government's Draft Social Enterprise Policy, the state's first such policy which has the potential to underpin and significantly develop a key sector in Irish economy and society. As the Local Development Company for Co Monaghan, we look forward to working with the Department in the implementation of the final SE strategy.

Regards

Gabriel O'Connell		 Monaghan Integrated Development
CEO		
Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan		
T: 042 9749500 E: goconnell@midl.ie W: www.midl.ie		
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Registered Office: Monaghan Integrated Development CLG.
Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.
Registered in Ireland. No: 463952

To whom it concerns,

Monaghan Integrated Development (MID) is the Local Development Company for Co Monaghan. We implement the SICAP, LEADER and a range of other programmes that have a direct or indirect social enterprise support remit. We have many years' experience of encouraging, assisting and supporting existing social enterprises and social enterprise start-ups.

MID also work first hand with those disadvantaged target groups who could most benefit from Social Enterprise services and the employment it creates. In Co Monaghan we work with disadvantaged individuals to help them build groups that can develop a social enterprise start up. We also work with existing groups who have social enterprise ideas and with existing social enterprises. In this regard, we are one of the only structures that actually works to address Social Enterprise start-up from both sides.

As members of the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) we have helped to build a common position with other LDCs across the country in regard to social enterprise. The main points of our position are outlined below:

- We welcome the publication of the government's Draft Social Enterprise Policy, the state's first such policy which has the potential to underpin and significantly develop a key sector in Irish economy and society.
- We welcome the policy's building on the 2013 Forfás report and the ILDN/UL report on 'Creating an Enabling and Supportive Enterprise for the Social Enterprise Sector in Ireland'.
- Local Development Companies are well-placed to support the implementation of actions arising from the Policy, given their delivery of LEADER and SICAP (both with SE elements), their management of the state's main labour activation work schemes, their current provision of business, marketing and governance supports for enterprise (through Social Enterprise and BTWEA programmes) as well as their direct management of social enterprises.
- Social enterprises are especially important in cases of low demand, market failure, low spending power of consumers, for groups struggling to participate in a conventional or competitive labour market. LDCs already work with each of these groups already through existing programmes and we see a strong SE policy as a core tool for social and geographic inclusion.
- The Policy is silent on Social Clauses and we believe that the implementation of these as core instruments of policy is required.
- ILDN believes that the national policy should clearly outline the need for the sector to come together in a single entity for the purposes of ensuring that the voice of the sector is cohesive and comprehensive.
- With over 40 designated social enterprise staff members in the LDCs across the country, ILDN represents the largest single body of work being done on the ground to support, expand and initiate social enterprises. We are of the view that the Department Policy should establish a new independent support entity for sectoral stakeholders. However, if it is considered that any existing organisation should be

responsible for this important task, ILDN is best placed to represent the Social Enterprise sector as it already has active members and staff in every part of rural and urban Ireland. These Local Development Companies, based on partnership structures, have full country coverage and understand the challenges and opportunities for Social Enterprise from directly supporting the establishment, development and growth and governance of social enterprises.

MID look forward to being involved in the development and support of the next wave of Social Enterprises, guided by the new Social Enterprise Policy.

Yours etc