



Ms Ann-Marie Davidson  
Social Economy Unit  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast  
BT4 2JP

14 May 2004

Dear Ms Davidson,

**Re: Developing A Successful Social Economy - N.I. Government's  
~~Three Year Strategic Plan 2004-2007~~**

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Enterprise Northern Ireland is the association for Northern Ireland's Local Enterprise Agencies (LEAs). It has a membership of 32 LEAs and is able to provide 40 "points of presence" for the delivery of social economy support activities throughout Northern Ireland.

Enterprise NI members are an important part of the social economy and welcome this recognition within the strategic plan.

Enterprise NI, and its member LEAs, welcome the Strategic Plan/Action Plan.

LEA's have been developing the social economy for over thirty years and are well placed to play a significant role development of the sector over the next three years.

Enterprise NI would wish to have an ongoing dialogue with the Social Economy Unit to help implement a successful strategy and action plan.

Attached please find Enterprise NI's comments on the strategy objectives and actions.

Yours sincerely,

ANN McGREGOR  
Chief Executive

# **NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY BUSINESS START-UP PROGRAMME (CBSUP) CONSORTIUM RESPONSE TO “THE DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL ECONOMY “ CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

## **Objective 1**

### **Increase Awareness Of The Sector And Establish Its Value To The Local Economy**

Enterprise NI would agree that this is an important objective.

It has concerns over the effectiveness of the Social Economy Network. There is such diversity within the sector that it is difficult to create an effective mechanism as it is currently operating.

Enterprise NI would suggest that a sectoral approach may be required eg. LEA's are a significant social economy sector within the social economy.

Enterprise NI would wish to be involved in actions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6 and 1.7.

Enterprise NI members are involved in the delivery of the Community Business Start-Up Programmes (CBSUP), what should be given greater recognition within the objective and actions.

Enterprise NI has developed extensive networks and partnerships throughout the UK, Republic of Ireland and the EU.

These networks/partnerships could be used to promote opportunities for the sector, as identified in action 1.7.

## **Objective 2**

### **Develop The Sector And Increase Its Business Strength**

Enterprise NI supports this objective which is vital to the development of the sector.

Enterprise NI members, with 40 points of social economy presence, are well placed to support this objective, particularly actions 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.7.

The importance of the CBSUP and community businesses assisted by LEA's should be recognised within this objective.

## **Objective 3**

### **Create A Supportive Enabling Environment**

Enterprise NI supports this objective and again would highlight the value and usefulness of LEA's in helping to achieve this objective.

Enterprise NI would be particularly interested in assisting with actions 3.1 and 3.4.

The LEAs involved in the CBSUP would be strategically positioned to support these actions.

### **Conclusion**

Enterprise NI supports the Strategy/Action Plan and would request greater recognition for the role of LEA's within the Social Economy.

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Enterprise NI members will be able to give Northern Ireland wide support to ensure the objectives are achieved and the actions successfully implemented.