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Social Economy Unit  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Netherleigh  
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BT4 2JP

**Re: Response to 'Developing a Successful Social Economy: NI Government's Three-Year Strategic Plan 2004-07'**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy for 'Developing a Successful Social Economy'. It provides a much needed focus for harnessing the potential of the social economy sector. Commitment to a more joined-up approach to delivery of services between Government departments and social economy enterprises is to be welcomed.

The Council would be keen to support the work in the plan as required, working in partnership with others to ensure that consumers are at the heart of service provision, particularly for the disadvantaged. The Council is already involved with the sector through the Consumer Skills for All programme with, amongst others, a priority to support the wider voluntary and community sector through provision of information i.e. leaflets, resources and courses for community groups.

One major consumer issue we are addressing is indebtedness. Work in the area in Northern Ireland will be stimulated shortly by the Government's forthcoming strategy on over indebtedness. Much could be achieved in the social economy sector to raise awareness and to combat hardship and we look forward to supporting the work of this new strategy in making a difference for consumers in Northern Ireland on the issue of credit and debt.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Gill", with a small flourish at the end.

**Eleanor Gill**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**