Comments on *(1) Financing the Sector*
(2) Registering and Regulating the Sector

1. ***Financing the Sector***

1.1 The creation of Ulster Community Investment Trust and its achievement of approved status as a Community Investment Tax Relief body should be built on to develop resources and expertise for the whole of the sector. All organisations in the social economy should be encouraged by the Department to join UCIT and promote it as a mutual finance agency.

1.2. Assets of social economy bodies which no longer intend to trade should be available to other similar bodies by a transfer of engagements. The Department should encourage the disposal of community owned assets in this way.

1.3. UCIT should be treated as a trust to whom assets from from failing social economy bodies can be transferred pending transfer or reinvestment within the social economy.

1.4. Credit Unions should be enabled to invest in Community Enterprises through UCIT.

2. Registering and Regulating the Sector

2.1. In view of the expansion of the 4 charitable objectives to 11 with an additional objective 'Other purposes of benefit to the community'. There needs to be a recognition that the majority of social economy bodies will become charities, registered and regulated by one body in Northern Ireland.

2.2 The registration and regulation needs to be as simple as possible. The Charities Act (NI) 1964 already provides for a form of regulation where a breach of charitable trust is alleged. Clause 29(1) to (4). This provision could be amended to permit the Charities Branch to have regulation and registration powers, with the right of appeal, for the Charity to the High Court.

2.3 The registration and regulation of the housing associations should be removed from Housing Associations Branch of the DSD and transferred to the enlarged Charities Branch since all housing associations are now eligible for Charity Status

2.4 All social economy bodies in receipt of public funds in the last ten years should be registered and regulated. The claw back provisions attached to most public funds allow the disposal of publicly funded assets with very little regulation.

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