



## **National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group (2019 – 2022)**

### **Call for Expressions of Interest – Social Enterprise Stakeholder**

#### **Background**

In July 2019, the Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring TD published Ireland's first ever National Social Enterprise Policy. The Policy aims to create an enabling environment for social enterprise to grow and contribute to Ireland's social and economic progress. Meaningful partnership and engagement with social enterprise stakeholders at all levels is critical to the success and sustainability of the Policy.

The Policy sets out 26 Policy Measures including a commitment to:

*“Establish a National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group, chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development, with representation from other relevant Government Departments and Public Bodies, and social enterprise stakeholders.” (Policy Measure 25)*

#### **Role of the Implementation Group**

The Implementation Group is primarily advisory in nature but it will be a key vehicle to oversee implementation of the National Social Enterprise Policy. The Group will comprise representation from relevant Government Departments, public bodies, and social enterprise stakeholders.

#### **Unassigned Seats on Implementation Group**

The Department is committed to ensuring the voice and experience of social enterprise practitioners is strongly reflected in the composition of the Implementation Group. The overall composition of the Implementation Group as outlined in the Draft Terms of Reference reflects a balance of representation of public bodies and social enterprise stakeholders. Two of these seats have been reserved for an open call for expressions of interest from practitioners or persons involved in supporting social enterprise or social entrepreneurship.

These seats will be assigned on the basis of this open call for expressions of interest. The Department will shortlist applicants against predetermined criteria, outlined below.

#### **Review Panel**

A panel comprising three members (i.e. DRCD Rural Strategy & Social Enterprise Unit, DRCD Community and Voluntary Supports Unit plus one independent, external member who possesses a record of commitment to independent public service values) will meet to consider the shortlisted applicants.



## Indicative Criteria

### Social Enterprise Stakeholder

- Actively trading as a social enterprise or actively supporting social enterprises or social entrepreneurs for a period of no less than 2 consecutive years
- Demonstrable track record of social enterprise including an awareness of the challenges/opportunities associated with social enterprise in the Irish context
- Strong motivation to contribute to the development of the broader social enterprise ecosystem in Ireland
- Willingness to consider and articulate wider social enterprise interests in so far as practicable

Note: Factors such as gender balance, geographic spread as well as the spectrum of social enterprise forms will also be taken into consideration in allocating the seats.

### Terms of Reference for the Implementation Group

The draft terms of reference is available at Appendix 1.

### How to apply?

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by email to [SEImplementation@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:SEImplementation@drcd.gov.ie) by close of business on **Wednesday 30 October 2019**.

It is envisaged that the first meeting of the Implementation Group will take place in early November.

**Membership of the Implementation Group is voluntary and unremunerated. However, reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in the attendance at meetings by members whose expenses are not ordinarily refundable from any other source may have such reasonable expenses refunded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in accordance with public sector guidelines.**



## **Appendix 1**

### **National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group**

#### **Draft Terms of Reference**

##### **Context**

In July 2019, the Minister for Rural and Community Development published Ireland's first ever National Social Enterprise Policy. The Policy is focused on three main Objectives:

1. Building Awareness of Social Enterprise
2. Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise
3. Achieving Better Policy Alignment

The Policy sets out 26 commitments on the part of Government across these Objectives for the development of social enterprise. The National Policy aims to create an enabling environment for social enterprise to grow and contribute to Ireland's social and economic progress.

##### **Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group**

The Policy includes a commitment to:

*“Establish a National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group, chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development, with representation from other relevant Government Departments and Public Bodies, and social enterprise stakeholders.”*

The National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group will be a key vehicle to oversee and advise on the implementation of the National Social Enterprise Policy. Whilst responsibility for delivery of the Policy Measures remains with the Department, partnership with a wide range of Social Enterprise stakeholders is key to the success and sustainability of the Policy.

##### **Composition of the Group**

The Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group will comprise the following membership:

- Department of Rural and Community Development (Chair)
- Department of An Taoiseach
- Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- County and City Management Association (CCMA)
- Pobal
- Social Enterprise Task Force nominee (x 2)



- Social Enterprise C&V Pillar nominee (x 2)
- Social Enterprise Stakeholder
- Social Enterprise Stakeholder
- Higher Education Institution

### **Role and Responsibilities of the Implementation Group**

1. The Implementation Group is primarily advisory in nature. It will be chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development which has responsibility for social enterprise policy in Ireland.
2. The role of the Group is to monitor the overall implementation of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 and, in particular, the progress in the delivery of the individual Measures (i.e. commitments) set out in the Policy.
3. The Group will provide feedback, guidance and advice to the Department in relation to the implementation of the Policy, as well as early warning regarding potential obstacles to the delivery of the Policy.
4. The Group will also provide insights into developments, opportunities and emerging trends in the social enterprise ecosystem in Ireland and internationally (if appropriate).
5. The Implementation Group may be invited by the Department of Rural and Community Development to lead on, or participate in, the delivery of some Measures in the Policy. In such cases, the Department will retain ultimate responsibility for the output.
6. The Implementation Group may establish sub-groups to support its work. Sub-groups may include members external to the Implementation Group, but must include at least one member of the Group who will be responsible for reporting back to the Implementation Group.
7. Members of the Group are nominated for the term of the Policy.
8. The Implementation Group will be reviewed after two years.
9. Membership of the Implementation Group is voluntary and unremunerated. However, reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in the attendance at meetings by members whose expenses are not ordinarily refundable from any other source may have such reasonable expenses refunded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in accordance with public sector guidelines.



10. The role of members of the Implementation Group is to represent the interests of the breadth of Social Enterprise in Ireland and not any individual organisational positions and/or interests.

**Secretariat**

Secretariat functions to the Implementation Group will be provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

**Frequency of meetings**

It is anticipated that the Implementation Group will meet 3 times per year. The frequency may be adjusted by the Group. Any sub-groups which may be formed may determine the frequency of their own meetings.