



National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group

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

In November 2019, the Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring TD approved the following composition of the National Social Enterprise Policy Implementation Group:

1.	Department of Rural and Community Development (Chair)	Andrew Forde, Principal Officer
2.	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	Phyllis Kelly, Assistant Principal Officer
3.	Department of Justice and Equality	Therese Molyneux, Assistant Principal Officer, Criminal Justice Policy
4.	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	Frank Maughan, Principal Officer, Climate Mitigation and Awareness
5.	County and City Management Association (CCMA)	Mary MacSweeney, Deputy Head of Economic Development and Enterprise, Dublin City Council
6.	Pobal	Richard Deane, Head of Programme Planning and Development
7.	Social Enterprise Task Force nominee	Brendan Whelan, CEO, Social Finance Foundation / Chairperson of Social Enterprise Task Force (SETF)
8.	Social Enterprise Task Force nominee	John Evoy, Social Enterprise Development Manager, Social Innovation Fund Ireland (SIFI)
9.	Social Enterprise C&V Pillar nominee	Ivan Cooper, Director of Public Policy, The Wheel
10.	Social Enterprise C&V Pillar nominee	Bríd O'Brien, Head of Policy & Media, Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed
11.	Social Enterprise Stakeholder	Tammy D'Arcy, Founder and CEO, The Shona Project
12.	Social Enterprise Stakeholder	Rónán Ó Dálaigh, Founder and CEO, SEDCo
13.	Social Enterprise Stakeholder	Dr Senan Cooke, Dunhill Ecopark
14.	Social Enterprise Stakeholder	Irish Local Development Network (ILDN)
15.	Higher Education Institution	Dr Deiric O'Broin, Head of Social Enterprise, Dublin City University

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, progress on 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 in 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.