Welcome to the Social Investment Fund Consultation Questionnaire

This questionnaire aims to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed operation of the Social Investment Fund, including options for applying to the Fund, application/assessment criteria, how the Fund should be managed and the structures to support its delivery. It is intended that through this document you will have an opportunity to put forward your views to help finalise the operation of the Fund. It should be completed in association with the consultation document.

Additional copies of both this questionnaire and the consultation document can be obtained from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister by:

Telephone: 028 90 522542/028 90 520584

Fax: 028 90 523272

Text Phone: 028 90 522526

Emailing: policysec@ofmdfmni.gov.uk

Writing to: Policy Secretariat

OFMDFM Room E3.19 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate

Belfast BT4 3SR

The documents can also be viewed and downloaded from the OFMDFM website at www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk or the NI Direct Website at www.nidirect.gov.uk. Alternative formats of the document can also be made available on request and you should forward any such requests using one of the methods detailed above.

Responses should be received no later than 23rd December 2011

Please note that all responses will be treated as public, and may be published on the OFMDFM website. If you do not want your response to be used in this way, or if you would prefer for it to be used anonymously, please indicate this when responding (See Statement of Confidentiality and Access to Information at the end of this questionnaire).

Following consideration of all responses, a report will be published on the OFMDFM website www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk

A number of consultation events will also be held during the consultation period and details of these will be available on the OFMDFM website in due course.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and for giving us your views

About You

1. I am responding as (please tick one option only)								
[] An individual [√] On behalf of an organisation□								
v								
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Project Concept High

The high level aim of the Social Investment Fund is to reduce poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration in areas through area based interventions of significant scale which will be delivered in partnership with communities. The aim of the fund is to encourage communities, statutory agencies, businesses and departments to work together in a coordinated way, reducing duplication, sharing best practice and enhancing provision for the benefits of those communities most in need.

3. Do you agree with the concept/high level aim outlined above? (please tick one option only)

[] Yes [√] No

If no, please comment below

IPH would like a consideration of health and wellbeing to be incorporated into the aim. For example 'reduce poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration **and enhance wellbeing** in areas'

4. Are there any issues which should be included in the concept/high level aim but aren't? (please tick one option only)

[√] Yes [] No

If yes, please specify

Health is influenced by a range of social, economic, environmental and cultural factors such as housing, the environments, income, employment and access to education or health services¹. There is no reference to the potential health benefits of the overall project concept. Each of the four objectives will have the potential to positively impact on health by increasing education attainment and skill levels, tackling deprivation, increasing community support and enhancing the physical regeneration of communities. Health outcomes are strongly linked to each of the four areas and we would encourage this link to be recognised as an overarching outcome of such a targeted programme of action. The Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) has reviewed the links between education² and health and employment³ and health. At a high level the fund will support the draft Programme for Government objective to 'Create Opportunities, Tackle Disadvantage and Improve Health and Well-Being'. There needs to be clearer links to the potential health outcomes of the Social Investment Fund.

¹ Farrell, C., McAvoy, H., Wilde, J. and combat Poverty Agency (2008) Tackling Health Inequalities – An All-Ireland Approach to Social Determinants. Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency/Institute of Public Health in Ireland.

² Higgins, C., Lavin, T., and Metcalfe, O. (2008) Health Impacts of Education: a review. Available at http://www.publichealth.ie/publications/healthimpactsofeducationareview

³ Doyle, C., Kavanagh, P., Metcalfe, O., and Lavin, T (2005) Health Impacts of Employment: a review. Available at http://www.publichealth.ie/publications/healthimpactsofemploymentareview

Strategic Objectives of the Social Investment Fund

The strategic objectives for the Social Investment Fund are as follows:

Build Pathways to Employment

by tackling educational under achievement and barriers to employment; tackling skills deficits and promoting jobs brokerage, widening access to the labour market, promoting business startup and increasing sustainability through social enterprise.

- Tackle the systemic issues linked to deprivation including poor mental and physical health (suicide and self harm), young mothers, substance abuse, community safety, children and young people at risk and enhancing community capacity, confidence and partnership working to reduce deprivation.
- Increase community services by regenerating and refurbishing existing facilities and providing play facilities and environmental improvements.
- Address dereliction and promoting investment in the physical regeneration of deprived communities.
- 6. For each of the strategic objectives below please tell us to what extent you agree that these are appropriate to the Social Investment Fund? (please tick one option for each objective). (please tick one option for each objective)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Build Pathways to Employment	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Tackle the systemic issues linked to deprivation	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Increase community services	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Address Dereliction	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]

if you disagreed to any of the above please state your reasons for doing so	

7	'. Are	e ther	e any	other	stra	ıtegic	objec	tives	that	shou	ıld b	oe ir	ıclude	d in	the
S	Socia	ıl Inve	stmer	nt Fun	id?	(pleas	se tick	one	optic	on on	ly)				

[] Yes [√] No		
If yes, please outline these below		

Social Investment Zones

Eight Social Investment Zones have been identified based on Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, NI Multiple Deprivation output areas, the Community Empowerment Partnership areas, Areas at Risk programme and rural poverty measures.

These are as follows:

- Greater North Belfast (Community Empowerment Partnership areas)
- · West Belfast and Greater Shankill Taskforce Area
- · Greater East Belfast, North Down and Ards
- · Greater South Belfast and Lagan Valley
- Derry/Londonderry and greater North West (potentially 2 zones)
- Antrim area (to include areas in Antrim Town; Ballymena; Carrickfergus and Larne)
- North Armagh (to include areas in Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown)
- Border (including areas across Newry and Mourne, Armagh City, South Armagh; Fermanagh South Tyrone and West Tyrone)
- 8. For each of the proposed social investment zones below please tell us to what extent you agree that these are appropriate for inclusion in the Social Investment Fund? (please tick one option for each zone).

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Greater North Belfast	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
West Belfast and Greater Shankill Taskforce Area	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Greater East Belfast, North Down and Ards	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Greater South Belfast and Lagan Valley	[\[\sqrt{]}	[]	[]	[]	[]
Derry/Londonderry and greater North West	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Antrim area	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
North Armagh	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Border	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]

If you disagreed to any of the above please state your reasons for doing so... Each of the areas has been identified as containing deprived communities which need increased investment. In Northern Ireland people in the least deprived areas can expect on average to live longer than people in more deprived areas. For men and women this gap may be up to eight and five

years respectively. Social determinants of health including education attainment, employment, housing and social connectedness contribute significantly to these inequalities. It is evident this area based programme will impact on the health of individuals in each area.

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Area Plans

Area plans will be developed for each investment zone and will target areas within the zone on the basis of clear evidenced need for the intervention proposed.

Each social investment zone will have a Steering Group which will bring together community, political, statutory agency and business representatives. It will take ownership of the development and coordination of the area plans and, through community consultation and conventions will aim to determine and agree the priorities to be addressed through consensus.

The Steering Group, in cooperation with stakeholders, will identify and make recommendations on all proposed areas to be included in the strategic plan. All areas within the zones will not automatically be included; inclusion will be based on identified areas of high deprivation, drawn together and resourced on the basis of:

- · Neighbourhood Renewal areas
- Multiple deprivation output areas
- · Community Empowerment Partnership (CEP) areas
- · Areas at Risk Programme
- · Rural poverty measurements

[] Strongly agree
[√] Agree
[] neither agree nor disagree
[] Disagree
[] Strongly disagree
10. Are there any approaches outlined above which should not be included? (please tick one option only)
[] Yes
[√] No
If yes, please specify

9. Overall, to what extent do you agree with the area based planning

approach outlined above? (please tick one option only)

11. Are there any approaches not included above which should be considered? (please tick one option only)

[√] Yes [] No If yes, please specify

Northern Ireland has a strong history of partnership working including Neighbourhood Renewal, previous Local Strategy Partnerships, District Policing Partnerships etc. The concern with this approach is the establishment of another partnership and there is a need to demonstrate how this approach will provide added value to what is already in existence in each of these areas to tackle deprivation and improve living conditions.

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Proposed Management Structure

Details of the proposed management structure for the Social Investment Fund are in Section 3 of the consultation document (pages 811). Please refer to this section if you require further detail.

12. Which of the options for the establishment of steering groups is your preferred option? (please tick one option only)

	Please tick ONE option only
Option 1 : OFMDFM will identify community and stakeholder groups to form 'conventions'. The groups or agencies will then nominate members to the Steering Group.	[]
Option 2 : OFMDFM will provide identified community and stakeholder groups within each social investment zone with a set of criteria for membership of the Steering Group. Each group will then nominate a representative to sit on the Steering Group from their sector.	[]
Option 3 : OFMDFM will select individuals from various stakeholder groups within each social investment zone and they will form the Steering Group. This will be done in cooperation with the sector either by direct engagement to identify candidates or through the sector identifying nominations which will be put forward to FM and dFM for consideration.	[]
Option 4 : OFMDFM will invite groups and individuals to indicate interest in serving on the Steering Group	[√]

Please state your reasons for selecting this option?

to those above? (please tick one option only)

This programme needs to be community led and therefore the community needs to decide who will be represented on the Steering Group as a bottom-up approach rather than top-down with OFMDFM identifying organisations.

13. Are there any other options which should be considered as an alternative

[] Yes [] No		
If yes, please specify		

14. To what extent do you agree with the following management structures (for more detail please refer to sections 3.03 3.06 on pages 10 & 11 of the consultation document). (please tick one option only)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Funders reference group	√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
OFMDFM core team	[\[\]	[]	[]	[]	[]
The First minister and deputy First Minister	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Learning Advisory Forum	[\[\]	[]	[]	[]	[]

If you disagree with	n any of the above pl	lease state your re	asons below	

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Proposed Application & Assessment Process

It is proposed that funding (and applications for funding) under Social Investment Fund will be a two stage approach:

- capacity building/technical assistance to support the development of the strategic area plan
- complete area plan with targets, timescales, outcomes etc detailing interventions and delivery partners.
- 15. Do you agree with this 2 stage approach? (please tick one option only)

[√] Yes
ſ	1 No

If not, please state you reasons

Clearer guidance needs to be given as to how this strategic area plan will complement the other plans already in existence. IPH also call for a consideration of health to be incorporated into the strategic area plan. This may be undertaken by providing training in stage one to create awareness of the determinants of health and how this programme will impact on local area health outcomes. Health targets should be included in the area plan. Additionally the strategies that this work will support e.g. Fitter Futures and Investing for Health should be clearly identified to maximise synergy.

Capacity Building Applications

Please refer to section 4.02 and 4.03 of the consultation document (pages 12 & 13) for more detail.

Final agreement on how funding for the capacity building stage will be managed will depend on the final option for the delivery and management of the Fund as detailed in Chapters 3 and 5.

5.
However, it is recognised that the approach may need to be flexible to adapt to the individual zones.
16. Do you agree with the approach outlined above for applying for funding for the capacity building stage? (please tick one option only)
[√] Yes [] No
Please comment on your answer Whilst IPH agree there is a need to target action based on evidenced need we would be concerned with duplication and a delay for programme delivery given the information already in existence already in these communities through Neighbourhood Renewal and other programmes.
17. Are there any further options that should be considered under the capacity building application process? (please tick one option only)
[]Yes []No
If yes, please outline these below

It is proposed that funding at this stage will be focused on how the proposal intends to:

- Identify and evidence the needs to be addressed within the social investment zone, including gathering evidence and baseline data, where appropriate
- Engage the community in the process, including through consultation
- · Link with other government and statutory/community initiatives and funding schemes
- Prepare/contribute to a strategic area plan

All proposals should clearly detail the capacity building/technical assistance required and the associated costs. Each proposal must, as far as possible, include outputs, outcomes and measurement tools and clearly demonstrate how the project fits within the strategic area plan.

18. For each of the proposed criteria for capacity building stage applications below please tell us to what extent you agree that these are appropriate for inclusion in the Social Investment Fund? (*Please tick one option for each zone*).

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Identify and evidence the needs to be addressed within the social investment zone, including gathering evidence and baseline data, where appropriate	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Engage the community in the process, including through consultation	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Link with other government and statutory/community initiatives and funding schemes	[√]	[]	[1]	[]	[]
Prepare/contribute to a strategic area plan	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]

If you disagreed to any of the above please state your reasons for doing so					

19. Are there	any alternative / f	urther criterion v	which should be	considered for
inclusion?	-			
[√] Yes				
[] No				

If yes, please specify

There is a necessity to consider the associated health outcomes with delivering such a programme and IPH call for a recognition of the health impacts of the work to be included. The inclusion of baseline health status would be helpful as would a recognition of the links this strategy affords to other government strategies to achieve increased cross-departmental approaches for enhancing the health of the population.

Full application in the form of strategic area plans

Please refer to section 4.05 of the consultation document for more detail (pages 13 15).

20. Overall, to what extent do you agree with the area based planning approach as detailed in section 4.05 of the consultation document? (please tick one option only)

√] Strongly agree
] Agree
] neither agree nor disagree
] Disagree
] Strongly disagree

Please comment on your answer

IPH recognise people and communities as co-producers of health and wellbeing, rather than passive recipients of services. One way of supporting this is by adopting community based approaches and a community development strategy potentially provides the framework under which this can be achieved. IPH support the approach to area based planning which puts communities at the heart of identifying solutions to long-term problems. Again we highlight the need to complement other local strategic plans.

Please continue to the next page....

It is proposed that each plan will make provision across four key themes. Each plan must include the first three thematic themes listed below. The applications will identify costs for the provision of the services, capital projects and staffing or service costs.

Theme 1 Build Pathways to Employment

Tackling Unemployment and Low Pay

Each area plan should seek to address problems that arise from persistent under and/or lack of investment or structural weaknesses in the local economy and social fabric, and demonstrate how it will tackle barriers to employment.

Employment, Skills and Employability

Each area plan should include provision to tackle issues of underemployment especially those arising from skills shortage or other gaps in the employability of local people. Projects and interventions under this theme should include those designed to tackle educational underachievement, lack of aspiration, reducing or removing barriers to employment and social mobility problems. Each application should examine the creation of employment through community business and social enterprise and increasing sustainability within the community sector.

Theme 2 Tackling Systemic Issues linked to deprivation

Each area plan should seek to address the recurring nature of the systemic issues linked to deprivation, including issues such as poor mental and physical health (suicide and self harm), young mothers, substance abuse, community safety, children and young people at risk and enhancing community capacity, confidence and partnership working to end deprivation.

Early Intervention and learning from experience

Each area plan should include provision to provide or support interventions that improve the prospects of young people growing up in conditions of social and economic disadvantage.

Theme 3 Increase Community Services

Each area plan should include evidence of community services needed in the area and proposals to refurbish derelict buildings and space for play and sports provision.

Theme 4 Address Dereliction

Each plan should include provision to improve the physical infrastructure of local communities. To maximise the benefit of such expenditure, it is expected that capital spending will be targeted to support and complement other aspects of the application, including environmental improvements and creating welcoming, safe and attractive areas and tackling eyesores. This can include capital spend to address the need for community services as detailed above and to improve the look and physical infrastructure of communities to attract investment and job opportunities.

21. To what extent do you agree that each of the key themes outlined on the previous page should be included in the Social Investment Fund? (please tick one option for each theme)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Build Pathways to Employment (including Employment, Skills & Employability)	[\[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Tackling Systemic Issues linked to Deprivation (including Early Intervention & learning from experience)	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Increase Community Services	[\[1]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Address Dereliction	[\[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
If you disagreed with a	any of the	e above	please comment belov	N	

22. To what extent do you agree with each of the criteria below for assessing applications for capacity building / technical assistance? (please tick one option for each criteria)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Clear evidence of objective Need	[√]	[]	П	[]	[]
High level of community support and collaborative working	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Viability	[\[\]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Additionality and Complementarity	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Value for Money	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Demonstrate ability to manage the project	[√]	[]	[]	[]	[]

If you disagreed to any of the above please comment below

Delivery of Funding (please see Chapter 5 of the consultation document).

Two options have been outlined for delivery as follows:

Option 1

The centralised model could entail the Department administering money through a large number of contracts with individual projects and would not directly involve the Steering Group or a nominated organisation of the group in the administration of funding. In the event that a centralised approach is utilised, however, it would be important, as far as possible, to keep the Steering Group closely involved and for the group to play a key role in monitoring delivery and outcomes.

Option 2

In the community option, resources would be allocated directly to one or more organisations nominated by the Steering Group which would in turn deploy these resources to projects included in the strategic area plan. This would require the Steering Group to nominate and agree one or more organisation(s) to receive and deploy the funds. In effect, the funding would be channelled through one or more lead organisations which would manage the projects and ensure the, achievement of value for money. The organisation(s) would, therefore, require a strong track record in the management of public money. These organisations would not necessarily be restricted to any one sector. For example, it is envisaged that resources could be deployed via organisations in the community, voluntary or public sectors – including other Government Departments and Agencies where they are identified in the area plan as a delivery agent. These organisations would act as conduits of funding to the specified delivery partners for the agreed actions and interventions outlined in the agreed area plans. The organisation which could act as the conduits of funding could be one nominated by a consortium of organisations/groups on a thematic or geographical basis.

23. Which of the options above would be your preferred option? (please tick one option only)

[] Option 1 [√] Option 2

Please comment on your answer

There are a number of community based organisations with a strong track record of managing funding and projects and therefore well placed to manage this project at a community level. This model requires strong governance arrangements to be in place by the steering group and presents opportunities for a more community led and focused approach to the programme alongside offering enhanced value for money and local delivery systems.

Clarifying monitoring and accountability arrangements would be welcome.

o opo	
[] Yes [√] No	
If yes, please specify	

24. Are there any alternative options which should be considered? (please tick

Confidentiality and Access to Information Legislation

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information legislation: these are chiefly the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice (section 45) with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office on 028 9026 9380 or email ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk (or see their website at www.ico.gov.uk).

- 25. Please tick the box below if you do want your response to be treated as anonymous.
- [] I want my response to be treated as anonymous.



one option only)

That completes the survey thank you for your valuable input into this consultation. Please post this questionnaire to the FREEPOST address below:

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