

1. Welcome to the Review of RIP Consultation

This survey forms part of the stakeholder consultation process on the Review of the Regional Infrastructure Programme (RIP).

We have identified a number of key questions in relation to this consultation document and would be keen to hear your views.

A twelve week period for the submission of comments on this consultation document will extend from 5 July 2010 until 30 September 2010.

DSD have commissioned NISRA's Analytical Services Unit to collate the consultation responses. Under the Freedom of Information Act all information contained in your response may be subject to disclosure.

Following detailed consultation analysis, it is anticipated that a new framework for Regional Support, together with appropriate transitional arrangements, will be finalised by early November 2010.

If you have any queries on this survey please do not hesitate to contact:

Una Gilmore on 028 9082 9430 or by email at:

Una.Gilmore@dndi.gov.uk

2. About you

1. Are you responding as?

An individual

On behalf of an organisation

2. Your Name

3. Your organisation (if applicable)

4. Address

3. Vision for a new Programme

The following questions relate to **Section A (page 9)** of the consultation document

Please read the vision statement below:

'That all voluntary and community sector organisations are able to access key infrastructure support to enable the sector to flourish, enhance the quality of its work, contribute maximum value to Northern Ireland society and maintain constructive dialogue with all levels of government and public bodies.'

1. Is the above vision statement appropriate for the long-term aim of any new Regional Infrastructure programme?

Yes

No

If no, what should the vision statement be? (in no more than 50 words)

2. Should a future programme be named as the 'Regional Infrastructure Programme'?

Yes

No

If no, what should the future name be?

4. Taking Stock

The following questions relate to **Section B (page 10)** of the consultation document.

Please think about the strengths, weaknesses threats and opportunities identified in Taking Stock.

1. Are the strengths contained in the consultation document appropriate?

- Yes
- No (please provide reasons below)

2. Are the weaknesses contained in the consultation document appropriate?

- Yes
- No (please provide reasons below)

3. Are the threats contained in the consultation document appropriate?

- Yes
- No (please provide reasons below)

4. Are the opportunities contained in the consultation document appropriate?

Yes

No (please provide reasons below)

5. Are there any other existing issues that should be taken into account?

Yes (go to section 5)

No (go to section 6)

5. Additional Issues

Additional issues that should be taken into account when developing the new programme

What are the additional issues?

Strengths _____

Weaknesses _____

Opportunities _____

Threats _____

6. Covering the Region

The following questions relate to **Section C (page 12)** of the consultation document

1. How can we ensure that voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland get the support they need?

2. What support routes or methods would be most likely to reach those organisations that are currently not reached

	likely to reach	unlikely to reach
front office services/physical presence	<input type="checkbox"/> front office services/physical presence likely to reach	<input type="checkbox"/> unlikely to reach
telephone support	<input type="checkbox"/> telephone support likely to reach	<input type="checkbox"/> unlikely to reach
website/online facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> website/online facilities likely to reach	<input type="checkbox"/> unlikely to reach
outreach facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> outreach facilities likely to reach	<input type="checkbox"/> unlikely to reach
written communication	<input type="checkbox"/> written communication likely to reach	<input type="checkbox"/> unlikely to reach

Other (please provide further details)

7. Key Functions of a New Programme

The following questions relate to **Section D (page 13)** of the consultation document.

The definition of a 'Generic' Function as provided in the consultation document is below:

Generic infrastructure organisations provide expertise on selected support functions for all Voluntary and Community Sector organisations across the region, either directly or through other intermediaries.

1. Do you understand the definition of a 'generic' function given above?

Yes

No

8. Key Functions of a New Programme

The following questions relate to **Section D (page 13)** of the consultation document

The definition of a 'Thematic' Function provided in the consultation document is below:

Thematic infrastructure organisations provide a package of support shaped to the needs of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations of a specific type or concerned with one of the Department's specific policy issues across the region

1. Do you understand the definition of a 'thematic' function given above?

Yes

No

2. Are there any other functions that should be included?

Yes

No

3. If the answer was yes to the question above please list these functions below, in order of importance (maximum three)

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

4. Are there any functions which should NOT be covered by this programme?

Yes

No

If the answer was yes to the question above, please provide details below.

9. Outcomes

The following questions relate to **Section E (page 15)** of the consultation document

It has been previously highlighted in 'Taking Stock' that the existing programme and funded organisations were not always clear about what outcomes have been aimed at or what outcomes have achieved.

The types of outcomes that we would like to be achieved from a new programme are detailed on page 17 of the consultation document and in the questions below.

1. For each of the outcomes below, please select the extent that you agree that they are appropriate outcomes for a new programme

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland have access to the services and support they need to function effectively and efficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations achieve their objectives better than before.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations provide an improved quality of service to their customers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations are helped to obtain and better manage resources, and conduct business effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The voluntary and community sector (including smaller local organisations) make a valued and effective contribution to policy development and improving service delivery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is increased voluntary and community development activity across Northern Ireland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are improved working relations, better collaboration and more effective partnerships across the voluntary and community sector.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Are there other outcomes that you feel are appropriate?

Yes

No

If yes, please detail these below

3. By what methods could evidence best be collected?

4. Which of all the outcomes below (including any you may have identified in other) should be the highest priority? Please select the three most important.

	Most Important	2nd most important	3rd most important
There is increased voluntary and community development activity across Northern Ireland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations achieve their objectives better than before.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations provide an improved quality of service to their customers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front line voluntary and community organisations are helped to obtain and better manage resources, and conduct business effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland have access to the services and support they need to function effectively and efficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Most Important

2nd most important

3rd most important

The voluntary and community sector (including smaller local organisations) make a valued and effective contribution to policy development and improving service delivery.



There are improved working relations, better collaboration and more effective partnerships across the voluntary and community sector.



Other



10. Programme Criteria

The following questions relate to **Section F (page 17)** of the consultation document

We have identified the following examples of possible new criteria. We intend that a small number of organisations, or consortia, will be selected which between them can best:

- 1) Perform the functions prioritised by the programme (see p12) and contribute to achieving its vision.
- 2) Demonstrate that they have the capacity and expertise to deliver these functions.
- 3) Provide coverage across all of Northern Ireland, in both urban and rural areas (not front line service delivery).
- 4) Address disadvantage as an intrinsic part of the work.
- 5) Address diversity and inclusiveness, ensuring needs of Section 75 Groups are met.
- 6) Identify and target unmet need and potential.
- 7) Specify and provide evidence of outcomes and impact.
- 8) Demonstrate administrative efficiency.
- 9) Show planning for continuous improvement in quality and reach.
- 10) Clearly demonstrate need for services offered.

1. Do you agree with these criteria?

- Yes
- No (please provide details)

2. Are there criteria which you think should be added?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list the criteria

11. Options for a New Approach

The following questions relate to **Section G (page 19)** of the consultation document

VCU are considering whether the new approach should be based on a fresh, comprehensive view of the sector's needs and potential, or seek improvement by incremental steps.

The first option and its associated funding implications is detailed below:

Option A

'Renew and enhance'

Continue to fund existing organisations and require them to show how they can amplify their role to fill any gaps

Funding implication - Existing funding would be likely to have to be spread more thinly to make space for new functions

Option B

'Renew and supplement'

Renew funding for all or most existing funded organisations and seek new bids from these and others to fill gaps

Funding implication - Existing funding would be likely to have to go further: organisations may have to do more within a standstill or reduced budget

Option C

'Clean sheet and development period'

Create a comprehensive new structure and invite bids whether from existing or new organisations

Funding implication - Existing funding would be temporarily sustained so far as budget allows, whilst creating a new structure to make better use of funding and create a long term framework for expansion

1. What are your thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages of Option A?

Advantages _____

Disadvantages _____

2. What are your thoughts your thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages of Option B?

Advantages _____

Disadvantages _____

3. What are your thoughts your thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages of Option C?

Advantages _____

Disadvantages _____

4. Which of the three options described do you prefer?

- Option A
- Option B
- Option C
- None of the above (go to section 12)

5. Do you have any other suggestions for alternative ways of approaching a new programme

- Yes
- No

If yes, please state your ideas below

Please go to Section 13

12. Suggestions for a New Programme

What would be the alternative ways of approaching a new programme?

13. Further comments

If you have any further comments to make, please do so below.

Thank You

That completes the survey

Thank you very much for your time and valuable input

All completed questionnaires should be forwarded to:

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