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Office of the
**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**

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Mr Peter McNaney
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

Our Ref: SUB/387/13

15 January 2014

Dear Mr McNaney,

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND – STEERING GROUP

As you may be aware, the Social Investment Fund was announced by the Executive in March 2011 to tackle poverty, unemployment and dereliction through community-led interventions of significant scale. It was a key programme, led by OFMDFM on behalf of the Executive, to help those most in need in our communities in a more integrated and joined up way. Delivery will be through strategic area plans in nine social investment zones.

In September 2012, we established initial steering groups, comprising four voluntary/community and four political representatives, to co-ordinate the development of the area plan, in partnership with communities, in each zone. A council representative also attended with observer status. Since then they have been undertaking a community engagement process to identify objective need and develop a maximum of ten priority projects to address that need. Composite area plans, detailing these projects, were submitted to the Department on 28 February 2013.

Now that priorities are known, we are keen to finalise full membership of the steering groups by appointing four statutory and two business representatives, prior to moving into project delivery later this year. We are offering your organisation a place on the following steering groups: Belfast North, Belfast South, Belfast East and Belfast West. Further information on the Social Investment Fund can be obtained at www.nidirect.gov.uk/the-social-investment-fund.

We would be grateful if you would consider nominating senior members of your organisation to fulfil these roles. We would stress that the steering groups will play a key role in overseeing the progress of the delivery of the area plan and reviewing needs and

issues during the first phase of SIF (until March 2016). Please note that statutory and business representatives are non-voting members of the steering groups.

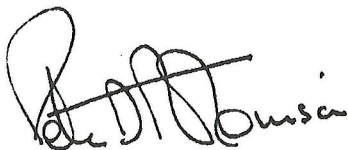
We would very much welcome your involvement in the delivery of the Social Investment Fund to ensure we enhance opportunities to work together and better integrate our work to maximise the impact on local communities.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the SIF team by emailing SIF@ofmdfmi.gov.uk.

Please respond to Carol Morrow, SIF Team, Room 4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SR by the end of January 2014.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Peter D. Robinson in black ink.

RT HON PETER D ROBINSON MLA
First Minister

Handwritten signature of Martin McGuinness in black ink.

MARTIN McGUINNESS MLA
deputy First Minister