



Ministerial Meeting of the BIC Social Inclusion Work Sector

21 October 2022, Wales

COMMUNIQUÉ

Ministers of the British-Irish Council¹ (BIC) Social Inclusion work sector met today, hosted by the Welsh Government in Cardiff.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy, Welsh Government; and Tom Arthur MSP Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth, Scottish Government.

The Government of Guernsey was represented by Deputy Steve Falla, Vice President, Committee for Economic Development. The Irish Government was represented by Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State, Department of Rural and Community Development. The Isle of Man Government was represented by Hon Lawrie Hooper MHK, Minister, Department for Enterprise. The Government of Jersey was represented by Deputy Elaine Millar, Minister for Social Security and Deputy Kirsten Morel, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture. The UK Government was represented by Lord Syed Kamall, Minister for Civil Society, Heritage, Tourism, and Growth.

Ministers reflected on the recent work undertaken by the work sector exploring the different approaches to supporting Social Enterprises sectors across Member Administrations, and the benefits that have been gained from sharing expertise in this policy area. Ministers took note of the extensive engagement with external stakeholders that had taken place through symposia focused on Youth Social Entrepreneurship, Social Value and Building Linkages within Social Enterprise

¹ The BIC, established under the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiation in Belfast on Good Friday 1998 is a forum for its eight Member Administrations to exchange information, discuss, consult, and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on policy areas of mutual interest.

sectors, and reflected on the importance of awareness-raising of the sector and its activities.

Ministers considered a Discussion Paper 'Social Value as a Driver of Social Enterprise', which looked at efforts to embed Social Value within social enterprise ecosystems within each Member Administration. Within that paper, Social Value was defined as "a broad term used to describe the social, environmental and economic impacts of actions taken by communities, organisations, governments and individuals." Ministers observed that it was clear that Social Enterprises were a key part of generating Social Value within the local communities in which they operate and took note of the benefits of including Social Value within public procurement processes, resulting in increased social, environment, cultural and economic impact.

Ministers also noted the Social Inclusion work sector's Forward Work Plan for 2022-2025, focusing on:

- Examining the role of social enterprises in building sustainable communities and resilient local economies.
- Understanding the contribution of social enterprises to the climate change agenda.
- Considering how to raise awareness of the importance and potential of social enterprises to contribute to more inclusive and sustainable societies.

BIC Secretariat
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