

# Social Investment Fund



Office of the  
**First Minister and  
Deputy First Minister**  
[www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk)





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# What's it all about?

The Government here is worried about the numbers of people in our communities who have very little money, or who don't have jobs, or who are living in places that are run down.

We have agreed to set aside £80 million extra money to help communities, organisations, Government Departments and businesses to work together to make things better. The money will be spread out over the next four years.

There are four main things that we think the money could be spent on and we intend to set up groups in a number of areas to plan how to make things better and how the money can be used to do that.

We want to know what YOU think of our ideas.

You can let us know by contacting us.....

Telephone 028 90 522542 / 028 90 520584  
Fax 028 90 523272  
Text phone 028 90 522526  
Emailing [policysec@ofmdfmni.gov.uk](mailto:policysec@ofmdfmni.gov.uk)

Writing to: Policy Secretariat  
OFMDFM  
Room E3.19  
Castle Buildings  
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If you would like to have some-one come along to a group meeting to talk to you or help you discuss what is being planned contact Orla Heatley at 028 905 28244.

Please let us know your ideas by **Friday 23 December 2011**.



## What are the four main things?

We think that we can help people who are finding it hard to make ends meet and who might want to make their area a better place to live in four different ways ...

1

Put people on the road to getting a job

3

Have more to do in local areas

2

Keep people from becoming poor

4

Freshen up local areas

### Put people on the road to getting a job

Some of the things that we might do are:

- ⇒ help children who aren't doing well in school to do better
- ⇒ help adults go back to education or to learn new skills
- ⇒ persuade business people to create new jobs in local areas
- ⇒ help people to start their own small business in local areas
- ⇒ help community groups to start businesses in local areas

1

## Keep people from becoming poor

We know that some groups of people are more likely to find it hard to make ends meet so we might give particular help to ....

- ⇒ People who have health problems including those who feel sad, depressed and are finding it hard to cope – especially if they are hurting themselves or thinking of suicide
- ⇒ Young mothers
- ⇒ People who are abusing alcohol or taking drugs
- ⇒ Children and young people who might get in to trouble or don't feel safe at home or outside home

We might also put money into making communities able to work together so that people living there get what they need.

# 2

## Have more to do in local areas

We know some areas have become run down and communities don't have a lot of choice of things to do in their local area. We want to ....

- ⇒ Fix up old buildings that the community can use for play and sports activities
- ⇒ Improve the local environment ... create more green spaces

# 3

## Freshen up local areas

We know that in some places old houses and other buildings are not used anymore and are not nice to look at – this is unpleasant for the people who live there but it can also put off employers who might not want to put their businesses there. We want to ....

- ⇒ Help make areas more welcoming, safe and attractive – for the people who live there and employers

# 4



## How will we do this?

As a Government we cannot do all of this work alone. We intend to set up groups in each area we want to help. The groups may be made up of people from within the community, politicians, business people and people from government.

It is intended that the groups will spend time talking to lots of different people who can help in making the area better and help produce a plan which outlines the key things that need done to improve the lives of people living there.

It may have new ideas and also include things which have already been proven to work well. We will look at the plans and give money for work that fits in with what we want to do.



## What areas will be helped?

Some areas have already been identified but it is up to the people in them to tell us which parts need help and what we can do:

- ⇒ 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)

## What we want to know .....

- ⇒ Are we doing the right things?
- ⇒ Are some more important than others?
- ⇒ What else could we be doing to help people who have very little money, or who don't have jobs, or who are living in places that are run down?

**Thank you for your help!**



