

## Social Future: Supporting a Thriving Social Enterprise Sector for Galway



### GCCN members call for the following actions to be included in the Galway City Development Plan:

- Establish the conditions for supporting social enterprise by including social enterprise hubs and sites in all development and redevelopment sites
- Provide spaces at affordable rents and rates levels for a range and variety of social enterprises
- Audit vacant and derelict sites for the potential to be used as sites for social enterprise
- Ensure complementarity with the Local Economic and Community Plan supports for social enterprise.



### Social Enterprises identified key challenges and proposed solutions:

**Core support:** There is a need for a larger core contribution and a more appropriate funding model. Within the current funding model some grants can cost social enterprises as there is an emphasis on project funding that doesn't allow for a core contribution, coordination and administration costs.

**Cross Departmental Role:** As well as the Department of Rural and Community Development the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment should also play a role in developing the sector and deliver a Social Enterprise Fund to be administered through Local Enterprise Offices.

**Varied Space:** Social enterprise supports should include access to varied spaces; community spaces, retail, manufacturing, industrial, educational

**Accessible Supports:** Social Enterprises should be able to access appropriate enterprise and community development supports. Social enterprises' status as not-for-profit should not exclude them from accessing enterprise support as they are still trading entities however, they reinvest their surplus towards their social mission.

#### Appropriate supports:

- Funding for peer support models so knowledge transfer between social enterprises is resourced
- Suitable marketing and fundraising supports

**Implementation of Social and Green Procurement** by public bodies would support social enterprises to complete tendering processes and deliver services, providing additional social and environmental impacts.

**Legislative Framework:** An overhaul of Cooperative Legislation (Friendly Societies Acts 1896 to 2014) is necessary to create legislation which is fit for purpose and facilitates community led solutions to local needs.

**Reduced Tax rates for circular economy products:** Reduced Vat charged on circular economy products would support Social and Sustainable Enterprise and encourage people to purchase these products which have positive social and environmental benefits over new products.

**Partnership Approach:** Collaborative engagement between the public sector, civil society and business sector to support the development of the social and solidarity economy.

**Raising Awareness:** Department of Rural and Community Development should increase awareness of the sector and its impacts and roll out awareness raising campaigns