Stakeholder Consultation on the National Hub Strategy

**Background**

A National Hub Network Inter-departmental Working Group, chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Rural and Community Development, was established in October 2020 to oversee the strategic development of the national hub network. The working group includes representation from key Government Departments, State Agencies and relevant public bodies. Part of its initial work programme was to (inter alia):

* Develop and map a national dataset of remote working hub infrastructure, facilities and services
* Identify appropriate development models for different remote working facilities in line with a classification model developed by the WDC; and
* Raise awareness of hub facilities to support remote working across Ireland

In 2021 the National Hub Network and its online booking platform ([www.connecetedhubs.ie](http://www.connecetedhubs.ie)) was launched. At that time there were approximately 60 hubs onboarded onto the online platform. As of 2023 the network includes over 300 hubs and over 10,000 registered users. With the majority of Ireland’s hub infrastructure mapped, it is clear that a significant hub sector exists across the country. The development of the online platform and creation of a hub ecosystem network has presented a unique opportunity to further leverage the sector in a more strategic manner, while also contributing to the sustainability of the network for its members.

**Purpose**

The overall aim of the strategy is to identify opportunities to further leverage the National Hub Network and to ensure its strategic development and long-term sustainability. The strategy will include 3 key pillars – **Enterprise, Employment** and **Communit**y. In addition, **Climate Contribution & Sustainability** will be cross-cutting themes embedded within the three pillars and mainstreamed into the policy document.

**Timeline**

It is envisaged that the National Hub Strategy will be bought to Government in Q4 of 2023.

**Consultation**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the National Hub Strategy in order to help inform its development.

**How to make a submission**

Should you wish to make a submission, please complete Appendix 1 and provide your views in the text boxes provided as per your area/s of interest. Completed submissions should be returned via email to connectedhubs@drcd.gov.ie.

**The closing date for submissions is COB Tuesday 15 August 2023**.

**Appendix 1**

**National Hub Strategy - Submission Cover Sheet**

1. Your Name:
2. Organisation:
3. Email:
4. Date:
5. Pillar/s your submission relates to (select all that apply and provide views in the text box of relevant area sections below) –

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Employment:
 |[ ]
| 1. Enterprise:
 |[ ]
| 1. Community:
 |[ ]
| 1. Climate Contribution & Sustainability:
 |[ ]

1. **Employment**

In contemplating your submissions under this theme, please consider the following:

* 1. The importance of corporate engagement and remote workers to the hub sector
	2. Considering the changes in the world of work what might
1. the employee be looking for and how do hubs fit into that picture
2. the employer be looking for and how do hubs fit into that picture

*(no more than 500 words)*

1. **Enterprise**

In contemplating your submissions under this theme please consider the following:

* 1. How can enterprise hubs attract and retain entrepreneurs, start-ups, micros, etc.
	2. How can enterprise hubs collaborate better.
	3. How can enterprise hubs achieve better sustainability models.
	4. What challenges are enterprise hubs currently facing. How can enterprise hubs better align themselves to Government and Agency strategies

*(no more than 500 words)*

1. **Community**

In contemplating your submissions under this theme please consider the following:

* 1. The importance of structured/consistent/flexible opening hours.
	2. Suggestions/ideas for community engagement initiatives to increase hub activity
	3. The importance of corporate engagement and remote workers to the hub sector. *Note: if you answered question 1.1. under the employment section there is no need to answer again here.*

*(no more than 500 words)*

1. **Climate contribution & Sustainability**

In contemplating your submissions under this theme please consider the following:

*(no more than 500 words)*

* 1. Suggestions/ideas for climate action initiatives for the hub sector.

*(no more than 500 words)*

END