

## **CBI NORTHERN IRELAND - Policy Priorities for 2008**

### **Creating the Environment for Economic Success**

- **Developing economic policies which encourage faster economic growth**
  - Secure some financial incentives through Varney II (meet Business Alliance in Jan)
  - Influence development of a new Regional Economic Strategy
  - Influence **Invest NI's Corporate Plan** – secure streamlining of processes
  - Secure more flexibility around proposed tightening of SFA rules
- **Public sector reform**
  - Continue to input to public services reform agenda to ensure it delivers greater efficiency and improved services (drawing on CBI's Public Services Directorate work)
  - promote the benefits of Public Private Partnerships and the benefits of involving the private sector in public services delivery – survey on public procurement in Q1
  - develop CBI position on rationalisation of government departments (check timing of review)
- **Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland** – Ongoing engagement with SIB and Central Procurement Directorate will remain key issues in 2008 to ensure ISNI 2 is delivered

### **Developing our most important asset: our people**

- **Delivering skills to meet economic needs**
  - Ensure short terms skills needs are effectively addressed by Executive
  - Promote an uptake in the numbers of pupils/students studying STEM skills – monitor/input to current STEM review
- **Ensuring education outputs are better aligned with economic needs**
  - Ensure adequate resources are allocated to delivering the new careers education, information and guidance strategy
- **Maintaining a flexible labour market**
  - ensure Executive/Assembly promotes flexible labour market policies – review of Dispute Resolution procedures and additional 2 days holiday entitlement key issues

### **Building a Competitive Infrastructure**

- **Addressing climate change** – ensure CBI plays a leading role in promoting the necessary actions to address climate change
- **Ensuring the reform of the planning system delivers improved performance** – influence the development of the Planning White Paper



- **Environment White Paper** - due mid-year and may focus largely on structures. CBI needs to be prepared to respond
- **Securing a more competitive energy market** – ensure SEM creates a fully competitive market (establish group under IBEC/CBI JBC). Secure review of PSO etc charges
- **Improving transport services** – secure a clear vision for transportation infrastructure/services by 2020 (Publish 2020 Freight Vision). Consider inputting to discussions on the development of a Belfast Rapid Transit system.