SUBMISSION FROM SCREEN FACILITIES SCOTLAND

1. Understanding the scale and growth of social enterprises and employee-owned businesses in Scotland;

Screen Facilities Scotland (SFS) formalised as a consortium in 2012 with significant support from Co-Operative Development Scotland. Since then, SFS has become a focus point for its 23 members and a strong representational voice for the facilities and service companies of the screen sector within the creative industries in Scotland.

Member companies of SFS provide an array of specialist services essential to successful screen production including: Casting; Locations; Creatures; Puppets; Tracking; Specialist Consultancy; Specialist Vehicles; Camera; Stunts; SFX; Extras; Crew; Insurance; Equipment; Actors; Music; Audio; Editing; Composition; Studio Space; VFX; Grading; Foley; Design; Lighting; Compliance; Rental; Health & Safety; Graphics; Sound and more.

2. Hearing examples of innovation from businesses, for example employee involvement in developing new products, services or processes and innovative partnerships within communities;

SFS members know first-hand the unpredictable environment in which creative businesses operate. Working together with other like-minded companies in a formal consortium co-operative affords each member a number of advantages – the ability to grow their business, network more often, share common challenges and build a higher profile.

As a collaborative venture, SFS promotes and advocates screen facilities and services available in Scotland; provides data, research and expertise to reports, research programmes and case studies.

As a unified voice, we market our industry with greater impact, lobby for improvements to industry practices and policy, and pitch for projects as a larger group or series of sub-groups.

As a central point of contact for potential clients, government, public agencies and other organisations, SFS is widely recognised as the collective voice for this sector of the industry.

Member companies benefit from shared marketing and promotional activities, new networking opportunities, stronger engagement and participation across creative industries and closer working with peers, colleagues and clients.
SFS membership includes membership (facilitated by Creative Scotland) of UK Screen Association in London providing further influence and networking opportunities across the UK.

3. Assessing the sources of funding and support available;

Creative Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Development International and Co-Operative Development Scotland have each supported SFS in different and tangible ways. These agencies recognised that, by establishing SFS, the facility and service companies were trying to take constructive steps to ensure future growth in Scotland and the consortium business model has provided structure and support to do so. Positive outcomes have been achieved through collaborative efforts between SFS and separate public agencies using existing support mechanisms.

4. What public bodies are doing and should be doing to encourage these business models.

Supporting development and production finance, business development, and engagement with the international market place are vital to the growth of the Scottish production sector and infrastructure. Expanding and reinforcing relationships between consortia such as SFS and the public bodies is mutually beneficial and will maximise the value of these agencies to the creative sector.