



Social Value Analysis

# COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND 2024

Undertaken by



Social Value  
Engine





<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>WHO WE ARE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	<b>CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<b>WHAT IS SOCIAL VALUE?</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	<b>THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL VALUE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	<b>ABOUT THE SOCIAL VALUE ENGINE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	<b>APPROACH TO SOCIAL VALUE</b> .....	<b>11</b>
	<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
	<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>13</b>
	<b>ANALYSIS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<b>IMPACT MAP</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE</b> .....	<b>26</b>	
<b>KEY INSIGHTS</b> .....	<b>27</b>	







## WHO WE ARE.



Rose Regeneration is a leading rural and coastal evaluation firm with nearly 20 years of experience supporting voluntary and community organizations, as well as funding bodies. Founded by Ivan Annibal, the business is known for its deep expertise in driving impactful change. This report has been crafted by Conor McGale, our Evaluation and Impact Manager in collaboration with Ivan Annibal.

## OUR PARTNERS.



Community Finance Ireland is a charity, social enterprise, and all-island business with a clear mission: to build a world-class community finance system that delivers real, measurable social impact. Since 1995, it has partnered with capital providers and clients across the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise sector to turn vision into action. As the most progressive social finance provider on the island of Ireland, it has a presence in every community, supporting initiatives that improve lives and strengthen local resilience. Every loan approved is underpinned by a strong social purpose, making Community Finance Ireland a true catalyst for meaningful and lasting change.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

Rose Regeneration has carried out a Social Value analysis of Community Finance Ireland for 2024.

The analysis found that CFI delivered a Social Return of Investment (SROI) of **£/€4.85 for every £1 invested**. This reflects a very high Value for Money Ratio as stated within the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in England's Appraisal Guide (2025).

The programme demonstrated clear positive social impacts in several ways.

This includes:

- Contributing to the improvement of health & wellbeing in local communities
- Benefits of participating in sports
- Establishing/Improvement of Community Facilities
- Supporting small businesses
- Investment in renewable energy

The programme also delivered a number of significant impacts when measured against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

These include:

- Good Health & Wellbeing
- Decent Work & Economic Growth
- Climate Action
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions





# INTRODUCTION.

Rose Regeneration were commissioned to carry out a Social Value assessment of the Community Finance Ireland's (CFI) activities for 2024.

This analysis marks the third report that Rose Regeneration has carried out with CFI to illustrate their social impact and value.

This analysis was completed by working closely with CFI's team, carrying out desk research of available monitoring information, arranging

interviews with a sample of organisations who have received support in 2024, and using the Social Value Engine (<https://socialvalueengine.com/>), an online measurement tool which has assisted over 100 organisations and projects across the island of Ireland to determine the impact of the work they do.



**WITHOUT COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND'S ASSISTANCE, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THE REFURBISHMENT WORK THAT WAS REQUIRED. IT HAS ALLOWED US TO BRING FACILITIES UP TO REQUIRED STANDARD AS A MODERN WORK AND OFFICE SPACE. IT HAS ALSO ALLOWED US TO OFFER A MORE MODERN FACILITY AS WELL AS BEING ABLE TO MEET LOCAL DEMAND AND INCREASE OCCUPANCY. IT HAS ALSO ENSURED THAT OUR BUILDING IS MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY.**

EAST BELFAST ENTERPRISE

## CONTEXT.

Community Finance Ireland (CFI) is a Charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs, churches, and social enterprises throughout the Island of Ireland.

Since 2001, as part of the CFI has disbursed more than £110m to hundreds of voluntary led organisations. As a registered charity, all profits generated by Community Finance Ireland are retained and recycled for reinvestment into the third sector.

CFI asked Rose Regeneration to provide a Social Value analysis on their work and the support they provide to a wide range of groups throughout the island of Ireland during 2024. This was to include support they give to organisations via their general loans service, as well as support that they provide to small businesses in Northern Ireland via the Northern Ireland Small Business Loan Fund (NISBLF).



**COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SECTOR IN THAT WE HAVE A FINANCIAL SOCIAL PROVIDER THAT UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE DO. THEIR SUPPORT HAS ENABLED US TO DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR FOOD AND DRINK STREET FOOD VENUE THAT WILL BE COMPLETELY SELF-SUSTAINING AND FREE FROM ALL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. THE FACILITY WILL HELP START-UPS, TACKLE DISADVANTAGE, PROMOTE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION LOCALLY. IT IS A COMPLETE GAME CHANGER FOR THE TALLAGHT AREA.**

PARTAS

# WHAT IS SOCIAL VALUE?

Measuring the tangible costs and outputs of an activity is relatively straightforward. We may know what our inputs are (e.g., the funding, equipment, or volunteers we need to run our activity) and the outputs expected of us (e.g., a target for the number of people participating in our activity); the greater challenge is quantifying the wider social, economic, and environmental outcomes we are delivering. This is what social value does. It asks the question ‘if £x is spent on delivering an activity, what is the value of that same £x in terms of wider benefits for the local community?’

Examples of social value might be the value community members experience from increasing their confidence or living near green space; or it could be the value of the time the community group has spent collaborating with other organisations to improve health services in a local area.

The Social Value Engine ( <https://www.socialvalueengine.com/>) helps organisations identify and measure the social value of the outcomes achieved by their activity.

This information can then be used to:

- understand where an organisation is having the most impact.
- make decisions about where to invest resources internally or externally.
- demonstrate the value of an activity to funders and other stakeholders.



**COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND ASSISTED US WITH PROVIDING A BRIDGING LOAN TO CARRY OUT SOME CAPITAL WORK TO A BUILDING THAT WE USE. WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO APPLY OR AVAIL OF FUNDING DUE TO NEVER HAVING ANY CASHFLOW. BY PROVIDING US WITH SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO DRAWDOWN FUNDING TO UPGRADE THE WINDOWS, ELECTRICS AND INSULATION IN OUR BUILDING AS WELL AS INSTALL SOLAR PANELS. PRIOR TO THIS WORK WE COULD ONLY HOST EVENTS ON A TUESDAY AS IT WAS TOO COLD. NOW WE CAN OPEN UP ANOTHER FEW NIGHTS AND ARRANGE OTHER EVENTS THAT HELPS BRING OUR MEMBERS TOGETHER. IT'S A BRILLIANT SERVICE AND WE HAVE MADE THE OTHER MEN'S SHEDS AWARE OF THE HELP THAT CFI PROVIDES.**

TULLOW MEN'S SHED



# THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL VALUE.



**WE RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND TO BUILD A NEW 4G PITCH AND FLOODLIGHT SYSTEM. THE DIFFERENCE IT HAS MADE TO OUR CLUB AND COMMUNITY IS UNREAL. THE FACILITY WHICH PRIOR TO THE WORK WAS ONLY USED ONCE A WEEK, IS NOW USED 7 DAYS PER WEEK, ENABLING OUR FACILITIES TO BE IN USE ALL YEAR ROUND. OUR USAGE AND MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY, AND THE CLUB NOW HAS A HOME WHICH IS THE CENTREPIECE OF THE COMMUNITY. WITHOUT CFI'S ASSISTANCE, THIS SIMPLY WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.**

FIVEMILETOWN UNITED

Social Value International, the international network for organisations working in social value & impact, have developed 8 principles of social value. These are the basic building blocks for anyone wanting to take social value into account, and to be embedded into any methodology used to calculate the work of a project or organisation.

The principles are:

**1. Involve stakeholders**

People and organisations involved in your work can help you to identify outcomes and determine if change has occurred.

**2. Understand what changes**

Understanding the links between your context, activity, outputs, inputs, outcomes and impact you are making.

**3. Value the things that matter**

Capturing what matters most from the perspective of your stakeholders

**4. Only include what is material**

Only include what is relevant and significant within your analysis

**5. Do not overclaim**

You will need to take account of five factors, what are called 'deflators' to understand your unique contribution to the outcomes you are measuring.

**6. Be transparent**

Be clear about the scope of your calculation including duration and timeframe.

**7. Verify the result**

Check your data and analysis with stakeholders, peers, and a third-party verification provider.

**8. Be Responsive**

Pursue optimum Social Value based on decision making that is timely and supported by appropriate accounting and reporting.

These 8 principles are inherent in all Social Value analysis that Rose Regeneration carries out and were adhered to during this analysis.



# ABOUT THE SOCIAL VALUE ENGINE.

The Social Value Engine (SVE) <https://socialvalueengine.com/> has been developed by Rose Regeneration and is only one of a handful of Social Return of Investment tools accredited by Social Value International. To date it has been used by over 100 projects and funders throughout the island of Ireland and over 400 throughout the UK.

The SVE provides:

- A systemised and academically robust assessment of social value to forecast, plan and evaluate activities.
- Nearly 600 peer-reviewed financial valuations/proxies derived from reliable sources and tagged against several widely recognised evaluation frameworks.
- A description of how a project or activity creates value and a ratio that states how much social value (in £) is created for every £1.00 of investment.
- Information about how activities are making a place better to live in – by tagging outcomes and financial proxies against one of the seventeen aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).





# APPROACH TO SOCIAL VALUE.

There are six steps to the standard Social Return of Investment (SROI) process namely:

1. Establishing scope and identifying key stakeholders to identify impacts.
2. Mapping project outcomes with stakeholders.
3. Evidencing project outcomes and giving them a financial value.
4. Establishing project impact – accounting for leakage, attribution, deadweight, displacement and drop off.
5. Calculating the SROI.
6. Reporting the findings from the assessment process.

Additionally, this analysis has focused on how CFI's impacts relate to the local place, a sustainable community where people want to live, work, and invest. To do this, our approach involves relating each of the organisation's impacts to improvements in the sustainability of local areas.

We do this by cross referencing each of the proxies/valuations within the Engine into the 17 themes of the Sustainable Development Goals. This approach enables us, not just to offer a financial Social Value of this work, but to set out the contribution that it has made to the relative sustainability of the area where they have supported organisations.

This approach is particularly powerful in supporting a narrative element to social value reporting which brings a local context to the Social Value process to accompany a financial value.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

For this analysis and with the agreement of CFI, we analysed the Social Value of the two initiatives against the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework.

On September 25, 2015, global leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the planet, fight against, and attempt to eradicate poverty to build a more prosperous world for future generations. These goals were established as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 SDGs aimed to engage governments, companies, civil society, and individuals. Each goal includes a series of targets, each with their own indicators to determine whether the objective has been achieved.

The complete list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is as follows:





# OUR METHODOLOGY.

Rose Regeneration has worked with the CFI team to identify the social and economic values which can be applied to the entirety of their work in 2024.



This has been undertaken using a Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology based which the Social Value Engine is based on

For the project, the approach to analysis involved:

1. Discussion with the staff involved in project delivery and/or project monitoring.
2. Analysis of available monitoring information.
3. Identifying the outcomes achieved by the organisation over a particular time period.
4. Assigning a gross £/€ value to each of these outcomes, using the range of nearly 600 valuations/proxies contained within the Engine.

5. Via staff discussions and stakeholder interviews, applying a range of 'deflators' to produce a net £/€ value:
  - **Leakage:** How much of an outcome might have delivered an impact outside of the area that the project originally intended.
  - **Deadweight:** How much of the outcome might have been achieved without the project's intervention.
  - **Attribution:** What proportion of an individual's outcome might be attributed to others because their activity contributed to it.
  - **Drop-Off:** : What proportion of the outcome will diminish over time.
  - **Displacement:** How much of the outcome has displaced other outcomes.
6. Calculating the input costs – the amount of financial support awarded and other costs such as staff, running and other operating costs.
7. Producing a Social Value figure for all of CFI's schemes by dividing the net value of the outcomes by the input costs.



# OUR METHODOLOGY.

This SVE approach is based on the methodology (and the accreditation it has achieved assessed against) contained within the HM Treasury Green Book.

The Green Book is the UK government's guidance on options appraisal and evaluation. It supports proper consideration of the costs, benefits, and trade-offs of alternative options for delivering policy objectives. This is the UK government's recommended framework for developing business cases.

Key elements of this analysis include:

- Identifying a series of credible financial valuations/proxies which can be applied to the impacts identified by the CFI team – the Social Value Engine has approaching 600 curated financial valuations which provide a nationally relevant suite of measures in this context.
- Assessing the impact achieved by applying volumes to the relevant financial proxies and deflating them to take account of external factors namely: deadweight, attribution, displacement and drop off and dividing it by the cost of the intervention to give a social value and a social return on investment figure. The outcomes from discussions we had with the team, reviewing official documents provided to us by the organisation, and reviewing other benchmarked projects of a similar nature including the UK' Government's Additionality Guide HCA Policy Covers ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) have been used to set the deflators for the activities being analysed.
- Reporting the impact in its wider context: the Social Value Engine aligns the impact achieved against the UN Sustainable Development Goals to provide international comparability.

The table overleaf sets out the financial valuations/proxies that we believe are a good fit for the overall outcomes that the two initiatives have achieved, the data collected by the organisation and the deflation assumptions that we have made which are used to ascribe an annual value to each of the outcomes.

**Please note:** Environmental impacts are typically assessed over a long period of time in Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis because many environmental changes and their consequences unfold gradually. For example:

- Delayed Effects: Issues like carbon emissions or habitat restoration can take years to produce measurable results or impacts. Short-term analysis may miss critical long-term consequences or benefits.
- Lifecycle Analysis: Environmental projects often involve resources and energy cycles that span decades, from initial implementation to eventual outcomes.
- Sustainability Goals: Considering long-term impacts aligns better with sustainable development objectives, ensuring future generations are accounted for.

Analysing over a longer timeframe provides a clearer, more realistic view of how actions today contribute to tomorrow's ecological and societal health.



ANALYSIS.

COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND OVERALL ANALYSIS

Leakage (L) / Attribution (At) / Deadweight (DWT) / Displacement (DISP) / Drop Off (DOFF)

OUTCOME	VALUATION/PROXY	QUANTITY	YEARS OF IMPACT	OVERALL DEFLATIONS (%) (L)/(At)/(DWT)/(DISP)/(DOFF)	IMPACT £/€
Arts, Heritage and Tourism Number of estimated people visiting arts/heritage/tourism projects on a yearly basis	Life satisfaction increase from visiting heritage (including marine or maritime environments)	4000 people	1	34	£/€5,720,879.99
Building improvements	CO2 savings from repurposing old building (reducing embodied carbon emissions)	500 Tonnes	15	47	£/€55,650
Business Leadership Training	Cost of Business Leadership Training	332 people	1	64	£/€1,046,756.15
Community Benefits (Estimated Wellbeing programmes participants)	Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach	231505 people	1	25	£/€7,292,407.50
Community Sport Impact (Estimated participants/members)	Value of Community Sport and physical activity	11923 people	1	38	£/€11,827,616
Community Gardening/Horticultural Activities	Value of gardening as a hobby	500 people	1	34	£/€309,869.99
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Value of reduced greenhouse gas emissions per tonne	2649 tonnes	15	42	£/€5,992,038
Innovation Support	Innovation support (voucher scheme)	194 organisations	1	64	£/€459,826.56
Nature Restoration	GMCA Carbon reduction value of restoring eroded peatland	1790 hectares	15	42	£/€7,973,376
Organisational attendance (Faith/Community)	Annual wellbeing value of regular attendance	1250 people	1	34	£/€533,774.99
Participation Benefits (Community Engagement Programmes)	Value of Participatory Engagement	6570 people	1	25	£/€1,971,000
Total					£/€56,563,185.82



# ANALYSIS.

# FTC ANALYSIS

Leakage **(L)** / Attribution **(At)** / Deadweight **(DWT)** / Displacement **(DISP)** / Drop Off **(DOFF)**

OUTCOME	VALUATION/PROXY	QUANTITY	YEARS OF IMPACT	OVERALL DEFLATIONS (%) (L)/(At)/(DWT)/(DISP)/(DOFF)	IMPACT £/€
Business Leadership Training	Cost of Business Leadership Training	132 people	1	64	£416,180.16
Business Turnover Support	Overall median turnover for an employing micro-business	44 Organisations	1	65	£7,371,964.60
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Value of reduced greenhouse gas emissions per tonne	409 tonnes	15	42	£925,157.99
Innovation Support	Innovation support (voucher scheme)	44 Organisations	1	64	£104,290.56
Total					£8,817,593.31



# ANALYSIS.

# NISBLF ANALYSIS

Leakage **(L)** / Attribution **(At)** / Deadweight **(DWT)** / Displacement **(DISP)** / Drop Off **(DOFF)**

OUTCOME	VALUATION/PROXY	QUANTITY	YEARS OF IMPACT	OVERALL DEFLATIONS (%) (L)/(At)/(DWT)/(DISP)/(DOFF)	IMPACT £/€
Arts & Heritage	Therapeutic effect of art and heritage	1000 people	1	35	£2,306,850
Building Improvements	CO2 savings from repurposing old building (reducing embodied carbon emissions)	150 tonnes	15	47	£16,695
Community Benefits (Estimated Wellbeing programmes participants)	Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach	51556 people	1	25	£1,624,014
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Value of reduced greenhouse gas emissions per tonne	150 tonnes	15	42	£339,300
Innovation Support	Innovation support (voucher scheme)	18 Organisations	1	64	£42,664.32
Organisational attendance (Community)	Annual wellbeing value of regular attendance at voluntary organisation	500 people	1	34	£213,509.99
Participating in Sport - Health Impact	Value of frequent moderate exercise	3810 people	1	39	£7,925,181
Participation Benefits (Community Engagement Programmes)	Value of Participatory Engagement	2796 people	1	25	£838,800.00
Total					£13,307,014.32



# PROXIES.

The Source for each of the financial valuations/proxies used in this analysis (all drawn from peer reviewed and independently published secondary sources) is set out below:

PROXY	SOURCE
Arts, Heritage & Tourism	<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-and-society-2020/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-and-society-2020/</a>
Building Improvements (Repurposing buildings)	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65d76d906efa830011dcc522/short-term-traded-carbon-values-for-appraisal-purposes-2018.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65d76d906efa830011dcc522/short-term-traded-carbon-values-for-appraisal-purposes-2018.pdf</a>
Business Leadership	<a href="https://social-value-engine.co.uk/calculator/Essentials%20of%20Leadership%20London%20Business%20School.pdf">https://social-value-engine.co.uk/calculator/Essentials%20of%20Leadership%20London%20Business%20School.pdf</a>
Community Benefits	<a href="https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/3012/evaluation-of-the-work-wellness-project.pdf">https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/3012/evaluation-of-the-work-wellness-project.pdf</a>
Community Sport Impact	<a href="https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/SROI%20Report%20FINAL%20-%20DIGITAL.pdf">https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/SROI%20Report%20FINAL%20-%20DIGITAL.pdf</a>
Community Gardening/Horticultural Activities	<a href="https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/SROI%20Report%20FINAL%20-%20DIGITAL.pdf">https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/SROI%20Report%20FINAL%20-%20DIGITAL.pdf</a>
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<a href="https://ukgbc.org/resources/carbon-offsetting-and-pricing-guidance/">https://ukgbc.org/resources/carbon-offsetting-and-pricing-guidance/</a>
Innovation Support	<a href="https://interface-online.org.uk/vouchers/standard-innovation-vouchers/?">https://interface-online.org.uk/vouchers/standard-innovation-vouchers/?</a>
Nature Restoration	<a href="http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F7283%2Fgmca-unit-cost-database-v2_3_1-final.xlsx&amp;wdOrigin=BROWSELINK">www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F7283%2Fgmca-unit-cost-database-v2_3_1-final.xlsx&amp;wdOrigin=BROWSELINK</a>
Organisational Attendance	<a href="https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/thehouseofgood">https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/thehouseofgood</a>
Participation Benefits	<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-online-hub/public-service-reform-tools/engaging-citizens-devolution-5">https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-online-hub/public-service-reform-tools/engaging-citizens-devolution-5</a>



**CFI HELPED US WITH A BRIDGING LOAN TO DRAW MONIES FROM A GOVERNMENT SCHEME THAT WAS CONSIDERABLY DELAYED. THEIR ROLE WAS VITAL IN HELPING US ESTABLISH OUR NEW TRAINING CENTRE THAT WILL HELP PEOPLE WITH ALL TYPES OF DISABILITIES IN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT. THIS IS A VERY UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE PROJECT THAT WE WOULD HAVE HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN ATTRACTING FINANCE TO SUPPORT US. THE VALUE OF A SOCIAL FUNDER LIKE CFI IS THAT THEY ARE IN TUNE WITH MANY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES NEEDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

VISION IRELAND



# ANALYSIS.

As stipulated previously, all of the outcomes achieved by Community Finance Ireland are linked back to one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development goal (SDGs).

The tables below outlines the total value of the activities carried out by each of the social finance programme’s impact against several of the SDG’s. NISBLF investment of £1,634,693. / FTC invested £2,933,000 / Other CFI loans invested amounted to the total of £871,976 + €4,767,000

COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND OVERALL UN SDG IMPACT AREA	VALUE £/€
Good Health & Wellbeing	£/€ 37,444,124.73
Life on Land	£/€ 6,122,176.50
Climate Action	£/€ 4,600,850.91
Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	£/€ 1,904,347.82
Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	£/€ 1,455,635.47
Responsible Consumption & Production	£/€ 299,391.30
Sustainable Cities & Communities	£/€ 42,729.59
Total	£/€51,869,256.36

FTC SUPPORTED GROUPS UN SDG IMPACT AREA	VALUE £
Good Health & Wellbeing	£11,661,405.79
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	£810,434.78
Climate Action:	£260,523.83
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	£41,221.56
Sustainable Cities and Communities	£12,818.87
Total	£12,786,404.85

NISBLF UN SDG IMPACT AREA	VALUE £
Decent Work and Economic Growth	£7,122,671.11
Climate Action:	£710,361.65
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:	£502,870.26
Total	£8,335,903.02



# ANALYSIS.

As stipulated previously, all of the outcomes achieved by Community Finance Ireland are linked back to one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development goals.

The tables below outlines the total finance programme’s value of its outcomes, along with the costs to deliver the two initiatives.

CFI OVERALL ANALYSIS ACTIVITIES VALUE	£/€
Project Benefits (Total Impact minus 3.5% discount rate)	£/€51,869,256.36
Financial Support Provided	£/€10,679,227
Social Value/ SROI	£/€4.85 for every 1 spent

FTC ANALYSIS ACTIVITIES VALUE	£
Project Benefits (Total Impact minus 3.5% discount rate)	£12,786,404.85
Year 1 Costs	£3,140,500
Social Value/ SROI	£4.07 for every 1 spent

NISBF ANALYSIS ACTIVITIES VALUE	£
Project Benefits (Impact figure minus 3.5% discount)	£8,335,903.02
Financial Support Provided	£1,634,693.00
Social Value SROI	£5.09 for every £1 spent

**BY GOING THROUGH THIS PROCESS,  
COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND IS DEMONSTRATING  
AN IMPRESSIVE SOCIAL VALUE OF £/€4.85 FOR EVERY £/€1 SPENT.**

**THE FTC PROGRAMME IS DELIVERING £4.07 FOR EVERY £1 SPENT  
& THE NISBLF IS DELIVERING £5.09 FOR EVERY £1 SPENT.**



# ANALYSIS.

Both the individual programmes and overall organisational figures illustrates a very credible level of achievement on both of these initiatives. In terms of this, it is worth noting that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in England have updated their Appraisal Guide (2025) which is used by government departments and local authorities have robust evidence on value for money when making policy and investment decisions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-mhclg-appraisal-guide>

In the guide, it provides information and guidance for Departments in outlining what funded projects are seen as a good “value for money” based on their Benefit Cost Ratio. You can see this in the table below.

VFM CATEGORY	IMPLIED BY...
Very High	BCR greater than or equal to 4
High	BCR greater than or equal to 2 and less than 4
Medium	BCR greater than or equal to 1.5 and less than 2
Acceptable	BCR greater than or equal to 1 and less than 1.5
Poor	BCR greater than or equal to 0 and less than 1
Very Poor	BCR below 0

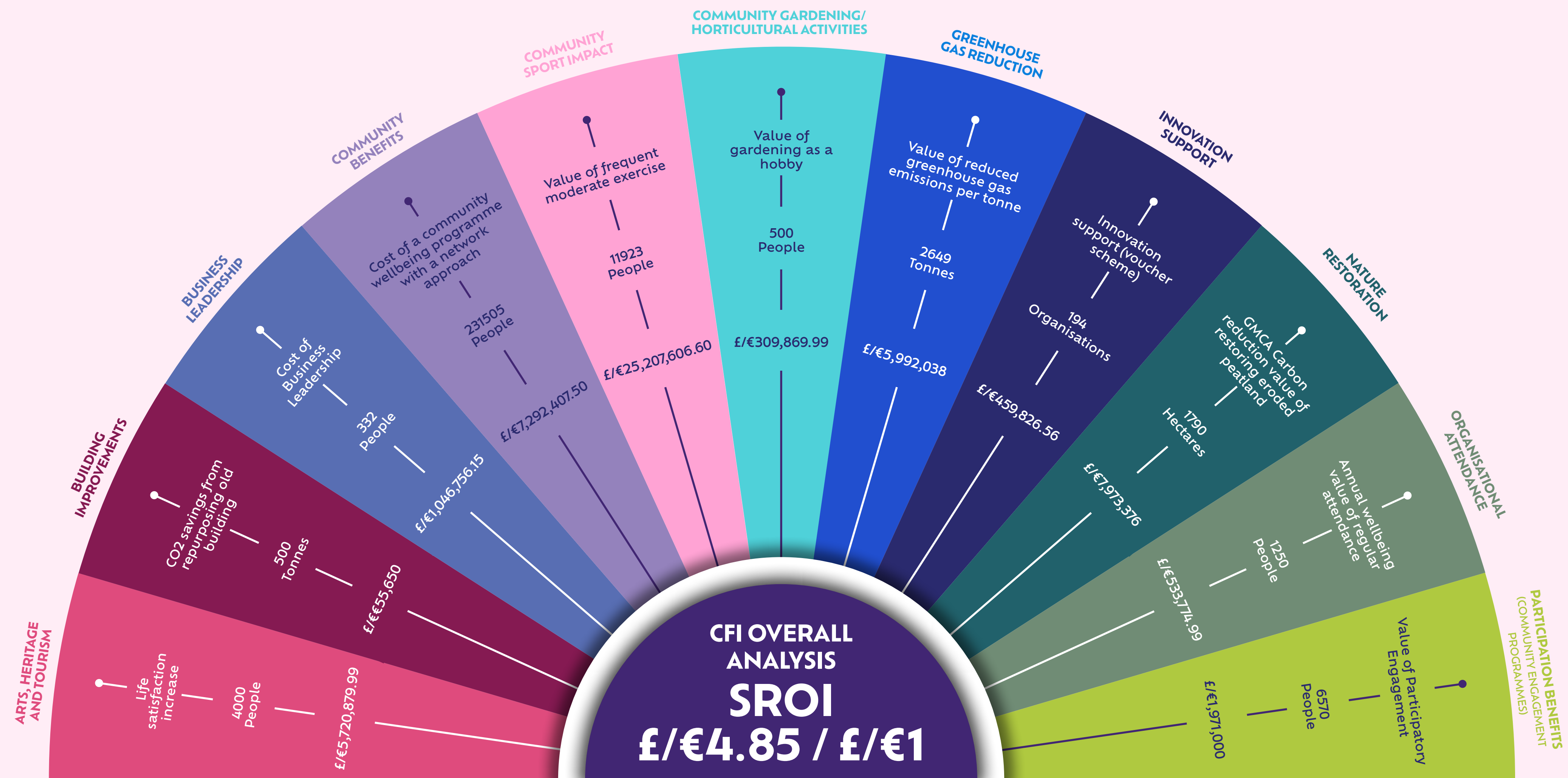
In summary, a return between a value of £2-£4 would be demonstrating a high value for money return on any funding, and a figure over £4 demonstrating a very high value for money return. So Community Finance Ireland are clearly delivering this both overall, and within the FTC and NISBLF initiatives.

The overall impact of Community Finance Ireland can be illustrated in the Impact Map overleaf.



# IMPACT MAP.

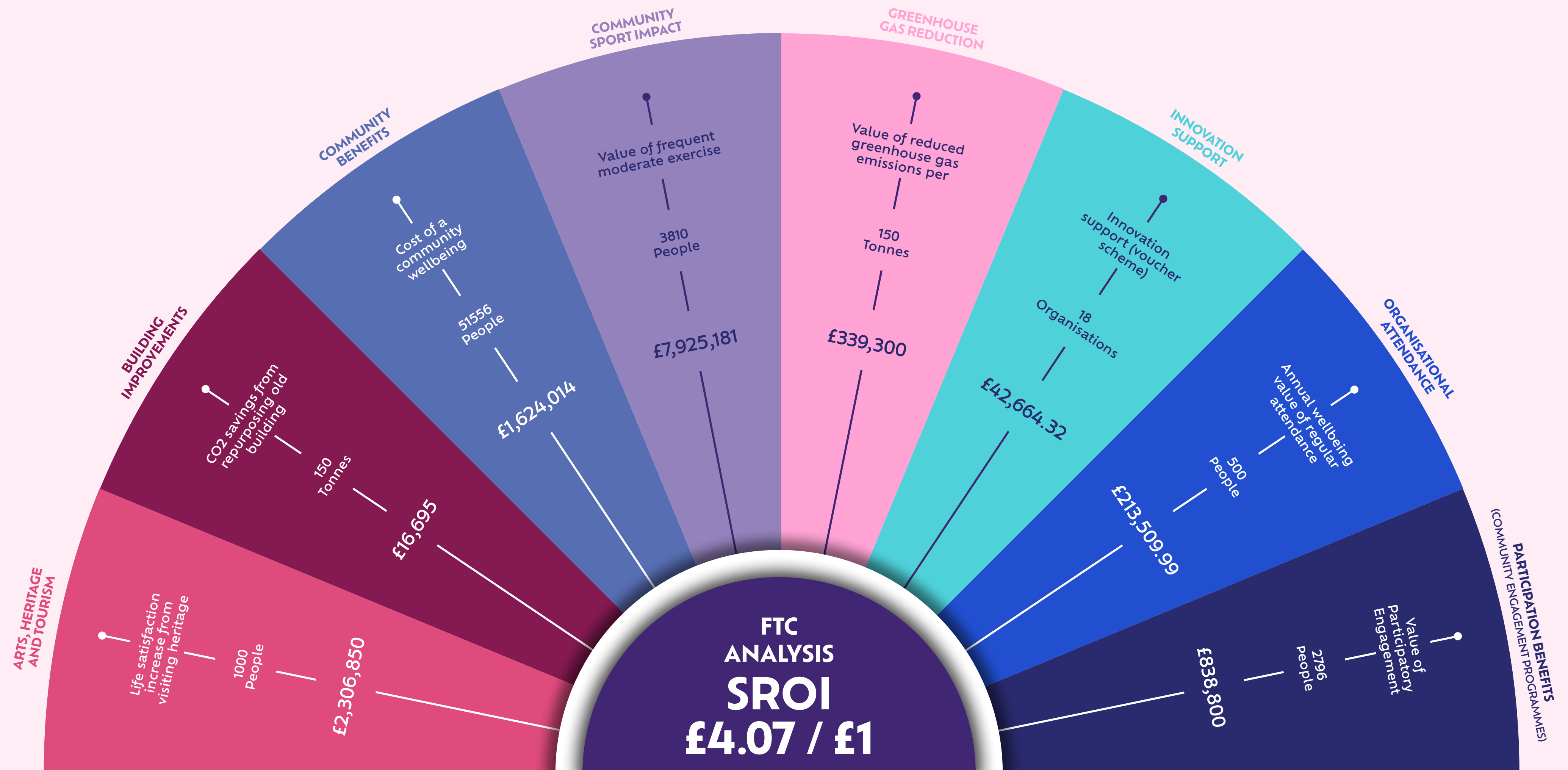
Community Finance Ireland Overall Analysis is illustrated in the Impact Map opposite.





# IMPACT MAP.

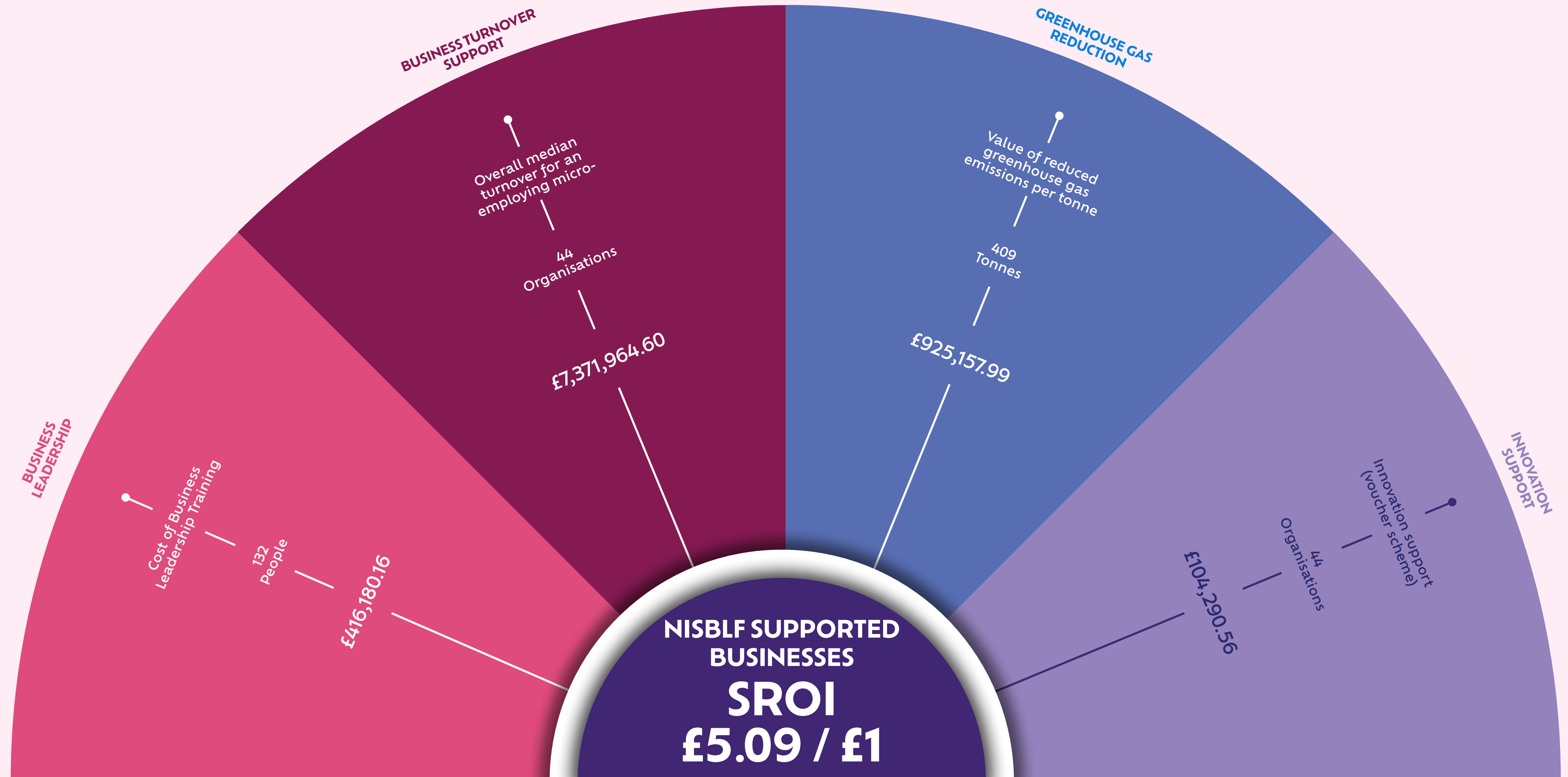
FTC Analysis is illustrated in the Impact Map opposite.





# IMPACT MAP.

NISBLF Analysis is illustrated in the Impact Map opposite.









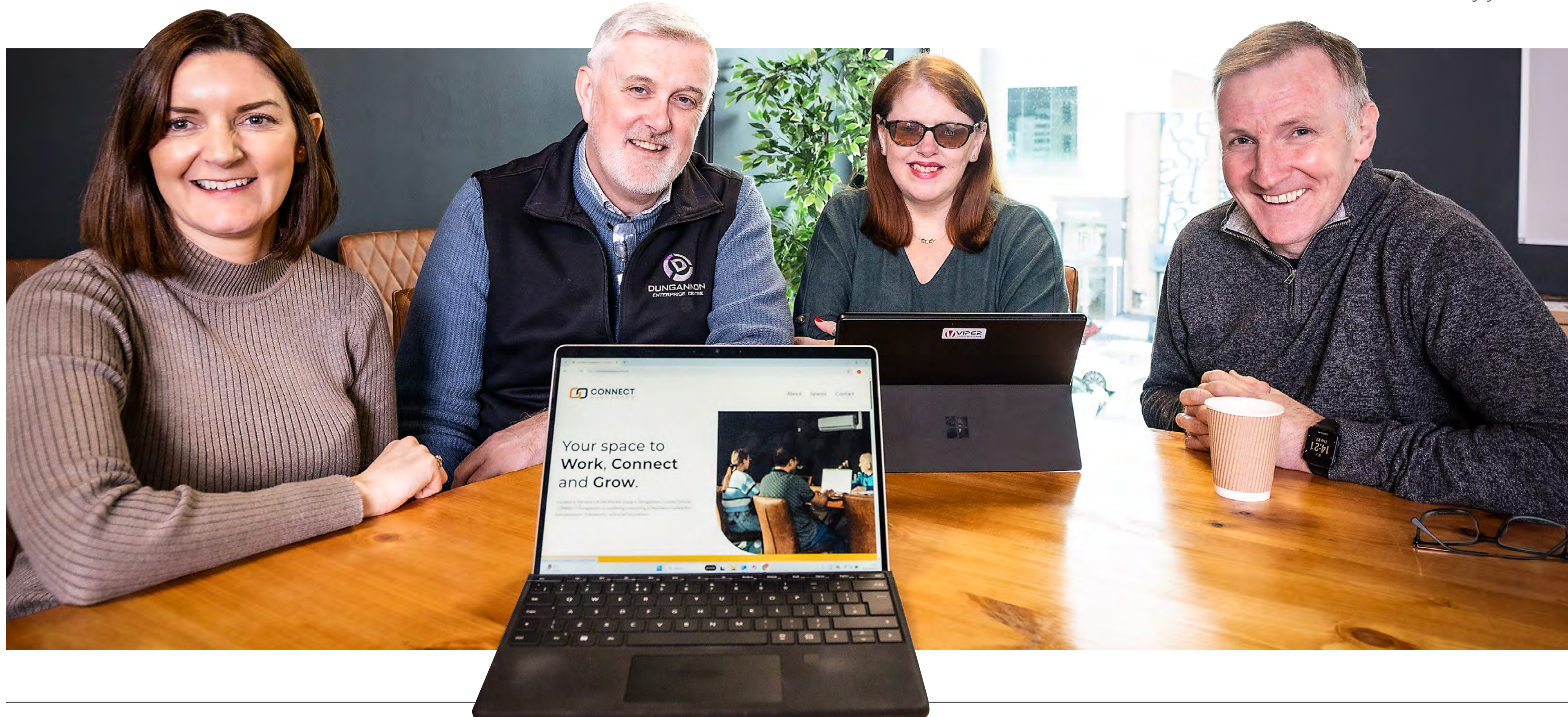
# QUALITY ASSURANCE.

We have considered materiality and sensitivity as part of this analysis. All the outcomes chosen make both a reasonable contribution to the overall total value (i.e., none is disproportionately large or small) and we have good third party (i.e. by the beneficiaries themselves) validation of their materiality.

As part of the Social Value process, the final calculation stage undergoes rigorous scrutiny to ensure that each project is not “overclaiming”. When calculating deflator percentages, not only do we take into consideration the data captured/ survey responses/evaluation information we receive, but we also benchmark these figures with other similar social value analysis that we have carried out over the last number of years.

This is done by several members within the Rose Regeneration and SVE consultant team not directly involved with the analysis and involves a detailed “deep dive” into the data capture to ensure that there is no double counting. It also ensures that the deflator percentages are accurate in terms of the nature of the activity being carried out, the age/gender of the project participants, and the duration of the activity.

This rigorous approach ensures that a robust and accurate Social Value figure for the projects we analyse are appropriately calculated.





## KEY INSIGHTS.

- **Community Finance Ireland continues to play a vital role providing bridging finance that allows organisations to drawdown funding from Government and other sources. One of the conditions in many funding programmes is the need for expenditure to be incurred by the organisation in question first of all, before any funding claims can be made. CFI continue to play this vital role to organisations of any size, which helps kickstart many new or refurbishment capital projects.**
- **The speediness and efficiency of CFI in making key financial decisions was highlighted by many organisations that we spoke to. As was the interest shown in the organisation/project by CFI staff with many remarking that on-site visits helps explains the vision of the project and what it is trying to achieve.**
- **For many organisations, CFI remains their first port of call when needing financial assistance. This is due to a number of factors including being a previous or existing client of CFI, familiarity with the organisations and staff within the relevant region, and the relationships that have stemmed from that.**
- **Like previous years, many of the organisations we spoke to outlined that traditional banking or lending institutions were not an option for them due to a lack of understanding of voluntary/community/sports sectors needs as well as the personal liability guarantees that are required by many of them.**
- **Community Finance Ireland plays a vital role in supporting many sports organisations. Numerous groups we spoke to highlight the severe lack of capital funding available for sports initiatives and facilities enhancement. This pressing need is being effectively addressed by CFI, ensuring that local sports groups can continue to thrive.**
- **Many of the groups highlighted the knowledge that CFI has of the sector and the needs being faced by many organisations across the island of Ireland. This makes them ideally placed to provide vital social finance support to many communities.**



# CONCLUSION

**This 2024 report highlights the ongoing social impact of Community Finance Ireland across the island of Ireland. The organisation empowers local communities and organisations to unlock their potential and drive positive change in their areas. It provides a comprehensive overview of both the broader impact of CFI's work and the specific contributions of several of its financial initiatives (FTC & NISBLF). Going forward, Community Finance Ireland remains well positioned to meet the emerging needs arising from many communities by continuing its responsive and flexible service and assisting organisations deliver social impact in their areas.**





