Fiscal Powers: A review of the fiscal powers of the Northern Ireland Assembly NICVA PwC report 2013

NICVA commissioned PwC to carry out this <u>review</u> which was published in 2013. It was part of a body of work carried out by NICVA through our Centre for Economic Empowerment. The focus of the work was twofold. The first was to help voluntary and community organisations to become better informed about economic issues and to take part more effectively in economic policy debates. In support of this we ran a series of training courses and masterclasses on a wide range of economic issues.

The second aspect centred on researching issues that might improve the lives of people in Northern Ireland if policies were adapted or new policies developed that might improve the economy of Northern Ireland. NICVA believed in informing the debate and much of the research was commissioned to explore the options rather than to find evidence to support a position.

That was the basis for commissioning this research report. We wanted to explore the possible benefits, or not, of devolving more fiscal powers to Northern Ireland. We wanted to shed light on which powers may be useful to have or not but mostly we wanted an informed debate.

NICVA tried to have an open mind on all the issues believing they were worth exploring and examining before we should take a view for or against any change in policy.

NICVA had taken part, over a 10-year period, in the Government's Economic Development Forum which advised the economy Minister. The EDF focus was trying to find the policy changes that might improve the trajectory of Northern Ireland's economy. NICVA's research was also driven by that goal and in all 18 reports are available on the NICVA website under the work of the Centre for Economic Empowerment.

Seamus McAleavey NICVA