

# Response ID ANON-Z86C-8PUC-B

Submitted to **The Replacement of European Structural Funds In Scotland Post EU-Exit**  
Submitted on **2020-02-12 10:28:38**

## Replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland Post EU-Exit

### Objectives

#### 1 What are the main aims that this funding should seek to achieve?

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The uses the current funds are being put to and the planned achievements for the programme, set out in paragraph 2.1 of the consultation paper, provide a useful starting point for considering the aims of future funding. The overarching objectives set by the EU for its Structural Funds for 2021-27 (2.3) are also helpful in developing thinking; from a specific CLD Standards Council point of view, the emphasis on “a more Social Europe” and “a Europe close to citizens” is particularly relevant.

The CLD Standards Council would contend that in order to take greater advantage of the opportunity identified by Scottish Ministers, strengthening the connections between economic and social programmes should be central to the Aims of the future funding. Further the Council would propose that:

- There is greater emphasis on aims which focus on community capacity building and active citizenship in support of the Inclusive Scotland policy objective;
- The funding should be used in ways that support community-led local development, enabling and empowering people to drive change locally, with recognition of the support needed for this to happen.

#### 2 How could funding be used most effectively to address spatial inequalities between areas and communities in Scotland?

##### How could funding be used most effectively to address spatial inequalities between areas and communities in Scotland?:

Enabling and supporting people, and businesses, in areas and communities that experience the highest levels of deprivation to develop the skills for life, learning and work requires to be central to the use of funding. Without this focus, efforts to reduce spatial inequalities are unlikely to have more than a limited short-term impact or to contribute to addressing the underlying issue of inequalities in life-chances and opportunities for individuals and communities to develop and use their abilities to the full.

In order to use the fund most effectively to address spatial inequalities, planning and delivery should be linked with existing community empowerment programmes such as Participatory Budgeting, the CLD Plans that are in place for each local authority area, and support for communities to lead development by bodies such as Corra and the National Lottery Community Fund

Within the overall focus on addressing deprivation, there should be recognition of the different types of issues faced by differing communities, including those in rural areas, which may face acute issues arising from isolation and lack of access to services.

#### 3 Geographically, at what level would the priorities for funding be best set?

##### Geographically, at what level would the priorities for funding be best set?:

There should be a recognition of the need for programmes to have coherence across closely-connected communities while seeking to set priorities at the most local level that is practical.

### Alignment with Scottish Policy and Other Funding Streams

#### 4 How could the use of future funding add value to other sources of funding focussed on similar objectives in Scotland?

##### How could the use of future funding add value to other sources of funding focussed on similar objectives in Scotland?:

The National Performance Framework seeks to bring together economic and social policy goals within a holistic framework. Translating this overall vision into concrete programmes and actions is challenging but essential if funding is to deliver measurable positive impacts for individuals and communities. This consultation exercise provides the Scottish Government with an opportunity to take steps to embed partnership working within the new programme aims, which would ensure providers work collaboratively to deliver effective and long-term outcomes for individuals and communities.

Skills strategy is a key area in which the use of future funding could add value by strengthening the ability to reach and engage effectively with people furthest from the labour market and least likely to participate within their local community and central/local government structures. Skills Development Scotland's work on the skills, knowledge and capabilities demanded by the “4th industrial revolution” highlights the role of “meta skills” in self-management, social intelligence and innovation. These are core to the outcomes of community learning and development (CLD) which provides a practice framework that enables people previously excluded, with little positive experience, from educational and other opportunity to acquire and develop these skills.

Programmes designed to increase the capacity of CLD to deliver on this agenda, and to develop joint collaborative working between local authority and 3rd sector CLD providers, colleges, HEIs and Skills Development Scotland around this agenda would add value to all of the relevant existing funding streams.

Investment in CLD skills in animating communities to engage, to build their own capacity and to participate in generating, developing and implementing local strategies would also support the added value of the programme of funding.

### Alignment with UK and EU Policy

**5 What practical value would you see in future funding in Scotland being aligned with the UK Industrial Strategy and other spatially-differentiated UK economic policies such as the City and Regional Deals or the Industrial Strategy's sectoral approach?**

**What practical value would you see in future funding in Scotland being aligned with the UK Industrial Strategy and other spatially-differentiated UK economic policies such as the City and Regional Deals or the Industrial Strategy's sectoral approach?:**

The proposals outlined in response to Q4 above have an important role to play in developing a strategy for increasing productivity across the economy and society as a whole. However, it is unlikely that these align with the UK Government's current priorities for increasing productivity which have a more limited focus.

To the extent that UK Government industrial strategy and economic policy have an impact in Scotland, we would see value in seeking a degree of alignment based on the Scottish Government being a partner in the Shared Prosperity Fund and seeking to influence its direction.

**6 What practical value would you see in maintaining alignment with EU Cohesion Policy?**

**What practical value would you see in maintaining alignment with EU Cohesion Policy?:**

There are clear benefits in maintaining formal alignment with EU Cohesion Policy as this would support collaborative working with existing, and future, EU partners. As most EU programmes allow non-member countries to be partners it is anticipated that close alignment would facilitate this form of collaboration. In addition it would give comfort to those organisations with longstanding and effective partnerships within the EU. In addition a set of programmes which align broadly with overall EU Structural Funds objectives is likely to support future dialogue and co-operation post-Brexit.

It is the view of the Council that as the direction of the EU Structural Funds appears to be supportive of Scottish Government policy maintaining this coherence would be advantageous. .

## **Evaluation and Monitoring Progress**

**7 How could we best evaluate the success of this new fund?**

**How could we best evaluate the success of this new fund?:**

Actively involving communities in setting priorities and evaluating the success of the new fund would help to ensure that outcomes are valued by those the programmes seek to support. Furthermore the learning and skills development resulting from this active participation in programme design and evaluation would in itself contribute to programme outcomes. The costs of evaluation for smaller organisations should be taken into account in funding.

The experience of those who have been involved in past EU funded programmes would be a useful learning set for future evaluation to avoid some of the pitfalls.

**8 What relevant parts of the National Performance Framework should this funding be targeted towards?**

**What relevant parts of the National Performance Framework should this funding be targeted towards?:**

Targeting the Economy, Poverty, Communities, Education and Fair Work and Business national outcomes should provide a clear and balanced focus for use of the funding. The links between each of the outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals should inform targeting of individuals and communities.

**9 Which specific aspects of the monitoring and evaluation framework from European Cohesion Policy do you consider would be beneficial to retain for any new fund?**

**Which specific aspects of the monitoring and evaluation framework from European Cohesion Policy do you consider would be beneficial to retain for any new fund?:**

## **Allocation and Programme Duration**

**10 What approach should be used to allocate the funding at programme level - including the most effective duration of the programme that would better support the identified priorities?**

**What approach should be used to allocate the funding at programme level - including the most effective duration of the programme that would better support the identified priorities?:**

Adequate time should be allowed at the outset for funding proposals to be developed, in particular at local level and involving communities. New partnerships, for example between colleges, community and private sector bodies, may be needed to realise the full potential of the funding. The importance of providing capacity-building and training in those communities that require support in order to participate effectively in the design and evaluation of programmes should be recognised, and this may require the provision of "pre-programme" funding to bodies with the relevant community development skills and community links. Small-scale "seed corn" funding should be made available where needed to facilitate the involvement of smaller organisations that can play a key role in developing and delivering programmes, ensuring that they address the priorities of communities. Where longer-term work is required to achieve sustainable outcomes, the duration of programmes should reflect this.

**11 What would be the most appropriate partnership and governance structure to achieve the strategic objectives of the future funding?**

**What would be the most appropriate partnership and governance structure to achieve the strategic objectives of the future funding?:**

Consideration should be given to establishing local partnerships based on Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structures to allocate resources from the programmes in order that these are targeted effectively to meet local needs. The need for more local structures, involving community, 3rd, private and public sectors, to ensure that planning and delivery reflects community needs, assets and opportunities, and contributes to building community capacity, should be considered, particularly where CPPs cover large populations and/or wide or diverse areas. Where possible and appropriate, these more local structures should use or be based on existing arrangements.

**12 What would be the most effective delivery model to ensure maximum leverage of funds from public and private sectors to regional investments?**

**What would be the most effective delivery model to ensure maximum leverage of funds from public and private sectors to regional investments?:**

As above an approach based on CPP structures and, where required, more local arrangements linked to these should be considered.

**13 What capacity-building or other support is needed to ensure the ability of local partners and communities to participate in the programme?**

**What capacity-building or other support is needed to ensure the ability of local partners and communities to participate in the programme?:**

Support for local partners and communities to engage with and take key roles in strategic programmes is essential and the first phase of this support requires to be delivered prior to the opening of any bidding process. The most effective means of delivering this support should be determined by CPPs and may require co-operation between for example local 3rd sector intermediaries and local authorities. It should be informed by dialogue with local communities so that it can be designed and delivered to meet the requirements they have identified.

In addition, larger organisations, including those in the third sector, may require support and capacity building to enable them to engage effectively with communities and local partners.

There should be continued support for networking and shared professional learning for local partners and communities as programmes develop.

**14 What can be learned from the design and delivery of the current and previous European Structural Fund Programmes in Scotland?**

**What can be learned from the design and delivery of the current and previous European Structural Fund Programmes in Scotland?:**

There is a view from some who have been involved in previous programmes that EU processes have been complex, bureaucratic and often disproportionate. The new programme is an opportunity to simplify the mechanisms at all stages. Based on past experience, future funding should fully utilise local partnerships and avoid structures and processes that are more complex than is necessary.

Funding being paid in arrears and at certain milestones can lead to cash-flow problems for some smaller projects and groups, and can lead to them being discouraged from becoming involved. Ways of avoiding or mitigating these issues should be considered.

**About you**

**What is your name?**

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**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

Community Learning and Development Standards Council Scotland

**The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response with name

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

**Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Slightly satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

The timescale allowed and the questions for consideration were helpful for developing a response.  
It's difficult to be entirely satisfied at this stage of the process!

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

Very straightforward to use.