

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### Question 1 – Are there other areas you think the Partnership Agreement should address?

It is important that the appropriate Third Sector voices be given their place at all levels of the management and strategic delivery of the Partnership Agreement. There needs to be an unequivocal statement about how the three Scottish Funds (SDPs) will be assembled, how these would integrate with other funds and how the potential for funding gaps and duplication would be avoided.

### Question 2 – Do you think these thematic objectives will best address Scotland's short-term and long-term challenges?

Q2 - The themes are broad enough to cover a range of current challenges. However it is important that they are able to reflect regional and local differences and need to be flexible enough to respond to changing demands over time. Without appropriate levels of involvement by the Third Sector in the strategic management of the programmes there is a risk that key delivery agencies will be missed. The decisions taken at strategic management level will impact on the range and quality of delivery agents able to participate in the programmes and therefore the quality of outcome and benefit to communities in need. Without clarity on the coordinating architecture there is a fear that there will be confusion between funding sources and the possibility of key issues (eg rural community development) falling through the gap between funds.

### Question 3 – Do you think there are any other thematic objectives which should be addressed?

The proposed ones are broad enough in to include a wide range of needs and challenges. However safeguards need to be in place which ensure that these thematic/virtual funds are properly related to mainstream government expenditure and that these themes are utilised to influence and shape the main areas of revenue expenditure.

### Question 4 – Do you think the Scottish Themed Funds will address Scotland's key challenges?

**Question 5 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your sector?**

See answer to Q 2

**Question 6 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your organisation?**

Q6 If there is as lack of genuine commitment to encourage active engagement in the CPP decision making processes, local organisations will inevitably find that funding opportunities at the local level are scarce. The move away from challenge funding and the requirements of procurement processes may lead to the exclusion of less well -resourced Third Sector organisations to the benefit of commercial prime contractors. Defining and relating to a third sector organisation as a sub contractor is inherently contrary to any ethos of partnership and local responsiveness.

**Question 7 – Are there any unidentified governance or delivery arrangements that could aid simplification of the future programmes and ensure that the Structural Funds complement each other?**

Q7 – The response from SCVO is helpful in this respect. *The introduction of a Global Grants Programme and wider availability of Technical Advice funding will ensure the involvement of a wider cohort of locally based organisations, collectively delivering measurable quality outcomes. and strategic added value*

**Question 8 – What other delivery options do you think would be feasible for delivering youth employment initiatives?**

Q8 – no answer

**Question 9 – What other measures could be taken to reduce the audit and control pressures?**

No answer

**Question 10 – Do you have any further comments on the proposals?**

No answer