

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

**Question 1** - The table in part 5 provides an overview of the proposals under each of the EU 2020 headings – Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive – matched against the relevant thematic objective and investment priorities. Do you think the investment priorities are the most appropriate ones for the activity suggested?

We would like to comment on the following proposals:

2. Business Competitiveness - the link in to employability needs to be stressed.
5. Scotland's 8th City - further emphasis should be placed on broadening out this approach to the wider city regions.
7. Low Carbon Travel & Transport - the links to better access to job opportunities should be made.
10. Enhanced Employability Pipelines & Youth Employment Scotland - the focus should be on all 5 stages of the strategic skills pipeline. It needs to be clear what can be delivered at stage 5 as potential overlap with proposal 1 (Developing Scotland's Workforce). The links to job creation and Business Competitiveness theme should be highlighted.
11. Poverty and Social Inclusion - there needs to be strong links between services at stages 1 and 2 of the strategic skills pipeline. Opportunity to create stronger links between the third sector and local pipelines.

**Question 2** – Section 6 sets out the linkages between Structural, Rural and Fisheries Funds as well as linkages to other EU Funding Programmes. We would welcome stakeholder comments on these linkages in order to help us develop this thinking further

It is important that activities and responsibilities undertaken through LEADER are complementary and add value to mainstream activities delivered through Business Gateway, Skills Development Scotland, etc otherwise there is potential for duplication.

**Question 3** - Do you think the new proposals will have a positive or negative impact on the protected characteristics and wider issues of inclusion and participation?

It is hard for us to make an assessment of this without further information.

**Question 4** - If you think there will be a negative impact on the protected characteristics or inclusion and participation please provide suggestions as to what could be done differently to diminish this impact.

Unable to comment. See response to Question 3 above.

**Question 5** - Please provide your views for improving the process for design, procurement, delivery, monitoring and evaluation to strengthen delivery of sustainable development.

It is important that there is enough flexibility in the design and delivery for local areas to do what really needs to be done in our own communities.

The use of frameworks to procure services such as training could be explored more fully.

It is absolutely critical that there are clear guidelines in place at the outset of the new Programme outlining what we can and can't do; this has not been the case in the current Programme.

**Question 6** – Do you have any further comments on the proposals outlined in this this document?

We have concerns about the lead authority model being suggested for the Enhanced Employability Pipeline and Youth Employment Scotland proposal under the Inclusive Growth heading. CPPs are already managing complex, multi partner programmes which are designed to meet local needs and each CPP area has its own individual pipeline structure and employment market. Having a lead authority for a number of CPP areas would be costly for leads to manage and would cause major delays in payments to delivery organisations if claims had to be aggregated firstly at local CPP level and then further aggregated at lead CPP level. There are also legal and financial issues around the lead authority model which would need to be addressed.