

## 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?

East Ayrshire Council welcomes the detail set out at section 5 and is reassured that the interventions and activities we and our Community Plan Partners deliver to our resident and business communities are largely included in the proposals. However, we are concerned by:

- A lack of strategic context for the proposals and the need to further develop some of the suggested interventions;
- A lack of financial information, which undermines the proposals and reduces any sense of what each intervention will achieve, either individually or collectively.
- A failure to demonstrate complementarity between and across interventions and the potential for duplication that this creates.

East Ayrshire Council also believes that there needs to be a stronger link between interventions to combat poverty and promote social inclusion and the activity of employability pipelines to maximise the impact of available resources. At present there is little recognition of the value of the CPP delivery model in building links across interventions.

**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

Given an early commitment from the Scottish Government to ensure that funds were planned together, avoided duplication and overlap and achieved more collectively than separately, the degree of fund integration is disappointingly weak and East Ayrshire Council believes that there should be much more effort made at an operational level to ensure that programmes complement each other. This is particularly important for our business support service which could potentially access additional resource from both the rural and the ERDF programmes despite the fact that business support is not based on locality but on need and opportunity.

**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?

The proposals as currently set out fail to demonstrate to what extent protected characteristics and the wider issues of inclusion and participation will be supported by the new Programme and it is therefore impossible at this stage to gauge the potential impact.

**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.

As stated above, at present proposals are not robust enough to gauge the impact but better monitoring of project delivery would undoubtedly serve to strengthen the positive impact of interventions in relation to equalities and sustainability.

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

Without access to the SNH report referenced in section 7, Sustainable Development it is not possible to answer this question.

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

East Ayrshire Council believes that the draft Scottish Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement should be made available for comment prior to completion.

We are concerned that there has been only limited progress recently coupled and seek clarity regarding the timescale for programme implementation together with robust guidance on cost methodology and delivery models. We have previously expressed concerns about proposals to have a single lead partner for each strategic intervention and given that this view is shared with many partners it is disappointing to note that it has not been addressed.

With regard to decision making processes we wish to emphasize the importance of having a membership of the various committees which is balanced and representative of both sectors and geographies. We are also keen to see a robust communication strategy implemented to underpin the transparency of programme delivery.