

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

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

Connectivity and accessibility. Ease of travel by sustainable public transport to reach employment and educational facilities to counter the spacial mismatch of skills and employment opportunities. Many people not in education, employment or training particularly in rural areas are tied to their home environment for economic reasons. These people require fast public transport to commute to centres of education or employment. Conversely sustainable tourists can gain access to such areas bringing employment to the area.

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

No! The objectives of Labour Market Mobility, Social Inclusion, Skills and Lifelong Learning and Low Carbon all require Sustainable Transport. Logically therefore this has to be one of the thematic objectives which need to be included.

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

Yes. Access to sustainable transport which may require new rail stations.

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

No! An artificial division of available funding into three risks one fund being oversubscribed while another is funding less beneficial projects to maintain its spend level. Also there is a risk that deserving projects crossing thematic boundaries may not be funded as separate fund managers may assume the other is dealing with the funding. Also cross thematic projects will be faced with the bureaucratic nightmare of having to complete multiple applications with differing emphasis in each. The whole system appears over bureaucratic.

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

Non availability of funding streams.

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

Not applicable

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?

Governance system seems overcomplicated with 3 delivery partnerships with 4, 5 or 6 lead partners but 3 of whom are common to at least 2 partnerships. Would be simpler with a single delivery team of 9. Project managers would only have one application to understand and complete.

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

Delivery options would be expanded with improved access to sustainable transport thereby allowing longer distance commutes to a wider range of employment and education.

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

Audit Control should be simpler with a single delivery team.

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

No.