

**STEERING GROUP
FOR CONSULTATION ON THE REPLACEMENT FOR European Structural
Funds**

14:00-15:30 Wednesday 15 January 2020

GN.07, Ground Floor, St. Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

MINUTES OF MEETING

Attendees

Professor David Bell (Chair) – University of Stirling
John Bachtler – (Co-chair) European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde
Robin Clarke – Highlands and Islands Enterprise (by phone)
Dr. Councillor Steven Heddle – COSLA (by phone)
Anna Fowlie – Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)
Douglas Colquhoun – Scottish Enterprise
Hilary Pearce – (on behalf of Mary McAllan) – Scottish Government
Joanne Briggs – (on behalf of Gary Gillespie) – Scottish Government
Karen Jackson – (on behalf of Russel Griggs) – Scottish Government
Malcolm Leitch – Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development
Nicola Graham – EKOS (by phone)

Secretariat

Karen McAvenue – Scottish Government
Fiona Loynd – Scottish Government (by phone)
Sean Jamieson – Scottish Government
Hannah Reid – Scottish Government

Apologies

Gary Gillespie – Scottish Government
Dominic Munro – Scottish Government
Mary McAllan – Scottish Government
Russel Griggs – South of Scotland Economic Partnership

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

1. The chair of the steering group opened the meeting by thanking attendees for coming to the fifth steering group session to discuss the consultation on the replacement for the European Structural Funds (ESIF) in Scotland.
2. Chair welcomed the contractors from EKOS who called into the meeting.

Agenda Item 2 - Update on Actions from previous meetings

3. Chair thanked the group for their introductions and asked Scottish Government colleagues to provide the group with an update of actions from the previous meetings following the cancellation of the fourth meeting in December 2019.

Agenda Item 3 - Consultation Update

4. Scottish Government colleagues updated the Steering Group on:
 - the current status of the written consultation;
 - stakeholder engagement activity;
 - information provided from the UK Government over the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF); and
 - internal engagement across Scottish Government
5. A member made the group aware that in addition their organisation will be holding 2 consultation events for the voluntary sector in Inverness and Edinburgh which are at full capacity.
6. One of the subs for a member commented that similar engagement will be carried out in the South of Scotland to promote further engagement before enquiring if the consultation would accept late submissions with this engagement taking place close to the current deadline.
7. Scottish Government noted that due to Ministerial deadlines following the consultation the scope for accepting late submissions would be minimal and suggested that this be discussed at a later date.
8. Chair thanked SG colleague for the update on the consultation and wished to note thanks to the Future Funding Team as a whole for their work thus far, especially in such short timescales.

ACTION 1: Future Funding Secretariat to provide Steering Group members with a copy of the SG blog used to promote the consultation.

ACTION 2: SG colleagues to gain further information from BEIS regarding SPF.

ACTION 3: Future Funding Secretariat to ensure Scottish Office attendance during academic consultation event.

ACTION 4: Future Funding Secretariat to discuss further regarding late submissions.

Agenda Item 4 - Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

9. Chair asked EKOS to provide an update on progress of the consultation events.
10. EKOS colleague noted that all the events to date had been well received, with high levels of positive feedback. They went on to flag the key emerging themes from 3 consultation events which had taken place to date (Kirkwall, Glasgow and Edinburgh):
 - Flexibility;
 - Broad success criteria;
 - Spend should be additional to and not displace or duplicate other funding programmes;
 - Locally driven, bottom-up approach.
11. Noting the following themes of focus had emerged:
 - Inequalities;
 - Health and wellbeing;
 - Climate change.
12. EKOS noted that there are differences between urban and rural locations: for example greater focus on issues related to population in Kirkwall than in Edinburgh and Glasgow.
13. The chair thanked EKOS for the update before asking each host to provide their comments on each of the three events.

Kirkwall

14. A member that had been a host spoke positively of the Kirkwall consultation event, noting that participation, attendance and facilitation were all good. They agreed that consistent themes had emerged as described by EKOS. The business voice was lacking slightly at this event however, and the ambiguity over the scope of the SPF (ie: will LEADER be in or out?) caused some debate.
15. They suggested that it may be helpful to provide members with suggestions of how a fund may look to prompt discussion.
16. Scottish Government colleague noted the theme of trust came up at various points throughout the Kirkwall event. This was principally in regard to trust between delivery partners and the Managing Authority (MA). Participants noted that if the MA had greater trust in local partners to deliver on what they said they would, then this would help to drive efficiencies and improve outcomes and impacts.

Glasgow

17. A member noted the strong Local Authority attendance at this event, encompassing both elected representatives and senior officials. The member commented that splitting the room in two had been advantageous, ensuring all views were able to be heard.

18. Discussion focussed a lot on skills and innovation, with climate change deemed as a cross-cutting theme rather than an objective in its own right. As mentioned by EKOS, Glasgow attendees also noted the need for a bottom-up approach to governance.
19. Chair suggested that attendees of future events should discuss what a bottom-up approach may look like and how it should be implemented.
20. Another member that had attended the event noted that attendees of the Glasgow event were perhaps expecting a stronger steer from Scottish Government to set the context and influence their thinking. Scottish Government Deputy Director noted that these events were not aimed to influence stakeholders but provide them with a space to contribute their view on a new funding allocation.
21. The member flagged that participants valued qualitative as well as quantitative methods when discussing how success of the programme should be measured.
22. A third member that attended noted a strong emphasis on community-level involvement in the new Fund and importance of wellbeing.

Edinburgh

23. A member that hosted noted that the Edinburgh event covered similar ground.
24. Many of the attendees seemed to focus largely on the current ESF programme which may have acted as a brake more creative thinking. However, they were clear that learning from past successes and failures would be a crucial part in developing any future programme
25. Chair thanked all hosts for their participation at each event and for their feedback to the group.

ACTION 5: EKOS to consider updating stakeholder information to allow a focus on what a bottom up procedures might look like.

Agenda item 5 - Update on RSE and Academic Events

26. The chair provided members with an update of the additional thematic events taking place at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Thursday 30 January, noting:
 - Strong interest for both the innovation and skills events;
 - Meetings will take place shortly to discuss the format of the event.
27. Co - chair provided members with an update of the academic event taking place at the University of Strathclyde, on Friday 7 February, noting:
 - Logistics had been finalised;
 - Strong interest had been received;
 - With a focus upon spatial and regional responses.

28. Chair thanked co - chair for his update, before requesting if a member would consider hosting the Aberdeen consultation event taking place on Thursday 24 January and to contact the Future Funding Secretariat in the first instance.

ACTION 6: Steering Group members to check availability to host the Aberdeen consultation event on Thursday 24 January.

Agenda Item 6 - AOB and Future Meeting Dates

29. The chair thanked members for their contributions before inviting members to raise any additional business items.

30. One member suggested that it may be useful for a written report of all the consultation events be produced to provide the group with a greater understanding of responses.

31. In addition, members suggested that further understanding of regional economic performance at each event however conceded that local data can be difficult to obtain.

32. With no further business raised, the chair concluded the meeting by asking members if they would please consider hosting the next in February meeting and advised that the Minister will be attending the final scheduled meeting in March:

- Wednesday 26 February – TBC
- Wednesday 25 March – 5 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

ACTION 7: EKOS/Future Funding Secretariat to produce a report of consultation events overall.

ACTION 8: SG colleagues to provide additional regional economic data during stakeholder events.

**Future Funding Secretariat
17 January 2020**

Action Log

Meeting 5

5.1: Future Funding Secretariat to provide Steering Group members with a copy of the SG blog used to promote the consultation.

5.2: SG colleagues to gain further information from BEIS regarding SPF.

5.3: Future Funding Secretariat to ensure Scottish Office attendance during academic consultation event.

5.4: Future Funding Secretariat to discuss further with Karen Jackson and colleagues regarding late submissions.

5.5: EKOS to update the stakeholder information to allow a focus on what a bottom up procedures might look like.

5.6: Steering Group members to check availability to host the Aberdeen consultation event on Thursday 24 January.

5.7: EKOS/Future Funding Secretariat to produce a report of consultation events overall.

5.8: SG colleagues to provide additional regional economic data during stakeholder events.

**Future Funding Secretariat
17 February 2020**