

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

**11:00 – 13:00 25 October 2019**

**Glennie A+B, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Attendees**

Professor David Bell (Chair) - University of Stirling  
Professor John Bachtler (Co-Chair) - European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde  
Rob Clarke – Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Dr. Councillor Steven Heddle – COSLA (dialling in)  
David McNeil (on behalf of Anna Fowlie) – Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations  
Francesca Giannini (on behalf of Douglas Colquhoun) – Scottish Enterprise  
Uzma Khan (on behalf of Gary Gillespie) – Scottish Government  
Oonagh Gill – (on behalf of Dominic Munro) – Scottish Government  
Hilary Pearce (on behalf of Richard Rollison) – Scottish Government  
Malcolm Leitch – Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development  
Iain Scott (on behalf of Russell Griggs) – South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership

**Secretariat**

Karen McAvenue – Scottish Government  
Fiona Loynard – Scottish Government  
Sean Jamieson – Scottish Government  
Hannah Reid – Scottish Government

**Observer**

Alistair Prior – Scottish Government

**Apologies**

Anna Fowlie – Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations  
Douglas Colquhoun – Scottish Enterprise  
Gary Gillespie – Scottish Government  
Dominic Munro – Scottish Government  
Richard Rollison – Scottish Government  
Russell Griggs – South of Scotland Enterprise

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

1. The steering group's chair opened the meeting by thanking attendees for coming to the second steering group session to discuss the consultation on the replacement for the European Structural Funds (ESIF) in Scotland.
2. The chair announced Professor John Bachtler as the Group's confirmed co-chair and noted the attendance of Alistair Prior as an observer on behalf of the Rural Economy and Communities. Alistair Prior thanked the chair for being invited to the Group and noted the role of his area in implementing the Common Agricultural Policy and future rural funding in Scotland.

## 2. Minutes and Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

3. The chair asked if the group were content with the proposed Minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. One member stated that they were largely content however, asked that point 19 within item 3 was recorded incorrectly. This point was referring to ensuring fair access to all communities to funding.

**ACTION 1: Scottish Government colleagues to rewrite point 19 within item 3 of the previous Minutes to note the correct interpretation of the members point.**

5. A sub asked that the member they were standing in for' membership should be noted.

**ACTION 2: Scottish Government colleagues to add ... to the membership list within the previous Minutes.**

6. Subject to the suggested alterations, the draft Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16 September 2019 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 3. Draft Context Paper

7. Chair introduced the draft context paper by noting that this will provide consultation respondents with context on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Scotland and why the exercise was being conducted. They opened the item to members by raising the following questions as areas of discussion:
  - Does the paper provide a clear context for the consultation?
  - Does the paper set out a clear vision and overview?
  - Are there any key factual issues with the context paper?
  - Are there any ideas that have been overlooked?

## Discussion

8. There was a general consensus that the paper should refer to Scotland's objectives as this was felt to be lacking from the draft paper. It was agreed that National Framework could be included to provide a greater context of the current Scottish position. Inclusion of the Ministerial 'red lines' were considered essential as these frame the position from where Scotland will start.
9. Several members raised points about the tone of the language and the need to ensure that it presents the consultation as opportunity to directly influence policy development. Members were also keen that the paper referred to the different types of delivery bodies in the right way to make sure that we reflected the diverse range of actors in this space

**ACTION 3: Scottish Government colleagues to revise the description of current delivery bodies**

10. Several of the group noted that the paper does not make clear how the UK Government's might disburse the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Hilary Pearce explained that this is tricky as the UK Government has not yet defined the objectives of the UKSPF. However the UK government has made it clear that the development of the fund will respect devolved settlements. Further, as no indication has been given by the UK Government of UKSPF quantum it would be inappropriate to give any speculative figure within the context paper for consideration.
11. Members agreed it would be useful to include some facts and figures on the current ESIF Programmes within the paper to help the audience understand the impact of Structural Funds on Scotland thus far.

**ACTION 4: Scottish Government colleagues to add a note of the current programme investment and achievements.**

12. There was some discussion around the role of regional policy in future funding and how the term "region" needed clarification.
13. An observer asked that the paper make clear which funding programmes are included and what is excluded from this consultation exercise – that both agricultural and marine policy are not being included.
14. Chair thanked attendees for their comments and asked if Scottish Government colleagues would take this on board and integrate these comments into the proposed context paper.

**ACTION 5: Scottish Government colleagues to update the proposed context paper taking into account attendees comments before providing the Steering Group with a redrafted version for final comment.**

**4. Draft Consultation Paper**

15. Chair introduced the next item agenda by noting that these questions provided by the Scottish Government and an accompanying document by Scottish Enterprise (SE) reflect comments from the previous meeting. Chair opened the topic to the Group by asking for comment on the suggested approach.
16. The Scottish Government paper was welcomed as a good starting point with members in approval of the layout, with the context of each section set out. There was consensus that the more concise questionnaire proposed by Scottish Enterprise may be better received and attract greater response.
17. Chair asked the members to run through each question section separately to evaluate the proposed consultation questions in turn. They made clear that they would not like to constrain respondents and would be more comfortable focusing upon the principles than the details of future funding.

**18. Strategic Aims**

- Key is to focus on main aims to be achieved with any money and the challenges at national priority level;
- Care to ensure no ambiguity within the questions which may lead to misunderstanding in question responses;

**19. Alignment with Scottish Policy and Other Funding Streams**

- The co - chair noted the clear and sharp questions provided within the SE paper. They highlighted question 7 regarding added value as addressing much of what is discussed in the alignment section of the Scottish Government paper.

**20. Alignment with UK and EU Policy**

- The observer warned against deviating from EU policy. It was suggested that future alignment be discussed more widely with Scottish Government colleagues to gain an understanding of potential impact.
- Co - chair noted that a question regarding future EU and cohesion policy and its benefits may be useful;
- Incorporate a question around both the UK Industrial Strategy and the potential Scottish approach.

**ACTION 6: Scottish Government colleagues to discuss widely with others regarding the potential alignment of ESIF replacement funding with other policies.**

**21. Evaluation and Monitoring**

- There is no separate monitoring and evaluation framework for the ESIF however Ministers have been clear that they would like the National Performance Framework to be incorporated into the consultation process;
- Chair enquired how the current ESIF Programme maps to the National Performance Framework.

**ACTION 7: Scottish Government colleagues to provide the Steering Group greater insight into the current European Structural Funds Programme and its relation to the National Performance Framework.**

**22. Allocation and Programme Duration**

- The Group agreed to utilise questions 8-10 from the SE consultation paper in place of SG proposed questions.

**23. Application and Claims/ Management**

- Discussion around the benefit of inviting comment on the administration and implementation of the current 2014-20 Programmes within this consultation exercise;
- General feeling that this section needed to be cut back;
- There was recognition of the need to ensure the inclusion of communities in this consultative exercise and access to any funds thereafter – be this capacity building for the smaller/less resourced communities to ensure involvement or acknowledgement that different communities will have different requirements.

**ACTION 8: Scottish Government colleagues to update the questions paper and issue a redrafted version for final comment.**

**5. Updated Timeline**

24. The chair introduced the final substantive agenda item by noting the tight timescales ahead of the scheduled launch of the consultation currently set to take place in the week commencing Monday 4 November 2019.

25. Scottish Government colleagues updated members with the progress of procuring a consultant to assist the Scottish Government with analysis and recommendation of consultation feedback. The tender process is currently underway and it is envisaged that a consultant will be in place by mid-November and all progress of their findings will be provided to the Group on a continuous basis (electronically or in person).

**ACTION 9: Scottish Government colleagues to implement a secure electronic system to share information between the group regarding the consultation progress.**

26. Scottish Government colleagues intend to hold around 6 stakeholder events during the response phase of the consultation to gain a greater response from the public and allow beneficiaries a chance to be heard. Two members offered assistance for holding such events and further engagement.

27. Chair thanked members for their offers of help and noted that these events will provide another avenue to collect information with many likely to take place in January.

**ACTION 10: Scottish Government colleagues and members to discuss future stakeholder engagement and potential assistance of the Group at upcoming meetings.**

28. Observer enquired if a potential general election taking place in December 2019 would negatively impact this consultation and the stakeholder engagement process. Scottish Government colleagues advised that colleagues will check the rules regarding the consulting process during an election period, however it is not yet known when and if a general election will take place.

**ACTION 11: Scottish Government colleagues to assess the impact of a potential general election upon the consulting process.**

**6. AOB and Future Meeting Dates**

29. Chair thanked members for their contributions which provided a stimulating discussion on the future consultation before inviting members to raise any additional business items.

30. With no additional business items raised, the chair concluded the meeting by making members aware of the following provisional dates of the next Steering Group. They asked that members discuss any difficulties with the secretariat.

- Thursday 21 November 2019
- Wednesday 11 December 2019
- Wednesday 15 January 2020
- Wednesday 26 February 2020

31. These meetings will be held in locations across Scotland and Steering Group members were asked to consider hosting.

**Future Funding - Secretariat  
18 November 2019**

### **Action Log**

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2. Scottish Government colleagues to add ... to the membership list within the previous Minutes.
3. Scottish Government colleagues to revise the description of current delivery bodies
4. Scottish Government colleagues to add a note of the current programme investment and achievements.
5. Scottish Government colleagues to update the proposed context paper taking into account attendees comments before providing the Steering Group with a redrafted version for final comment.
6. Scottish Government colleagues to discuss widely with others regarding the potential alignment of ESIF replacement funding with other policies.

OFFICIAL  
Steering Group Meeting 3 - Paper 3.1

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8. Scottish Government colleagues to update the questions paper and issue a redrafted version for final comment.
9. Scottish Government colleagues to implement a secure electronic system to share information between the group regarding the consultation progress.
10. Scottish Government colleagues and members to discuss future stakeholder engagement and potential assistance of the Group at upcoming meetings.
11. Scottish Government colleagues to assess the impact of a potential general election upon the consulting process.