

## 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?

In general, we feel that the investment priorities are the most appropriate ones for the activity suggested.

With regard Proposal 1: ‘Developing Scotland’s Workforce’:

In relation to delivery – we would recommend that the wording ‘high-level college and university places’ is changed to ‘additional college and university places’. The reason for recommending this change is that although some of the additional provision will be high-level, some training delivered by colleges will be at a lower level, enabling college regions the flexibility to respond to regional employer requirements and the needs of disadvantaged participant groups looking to progress along the skills pipeline. Additional college vocational training places will include a range of qualification levels, ensuring social inclusion by providing access to vocational training to a full range of participant groups, who may otherwise be excluded if only ‘high-level’ college places were delivered.

**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

No further comments to add

**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?

Provided a range of levels of College vocational training places are provided and funded places are not restricted to higher level places only, the new proposals will

have a positive impact on the protected characteristics and wider issues of inclusion and participation.

**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.

By providing a range of levels of College vocational training places, access to vocational training will ensure promotion of inclusion and participation.

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

No comment to add

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

The 'Developing Scotland's Workforce' proposal groups SDS and SFC's proposals. While SDS and SFC continue to work closely in development of their proposals, it would be useful if they are included as separate rows in the strategic interventions table to avoid confusion.