

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is an umbrella body for organisations working in the built environment in Scotland. Drawing on extensive expertise in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities and challenges facing Scotland's historic and contemporary built environment.

BEFS issues the following statement in relation to the replacement of European Structural Funds post EU.

The [current information](#) (September 2019) available from the UK Government in relation to a UK: Shared Prosperity Fund (as replacement for EU Structural Funds) appears to be driven primarily through the UK Government's Industrial Strategy.

BEFS would like to see a wider approach given in Scotland where the Climate Act, Communities Act, Infrastructure Commission Report and the National Planning Framework (NPF4) are all part of the aspects considered to support healthy places, enhancing the wellbeing of citizens and working towards the aims of a wellbeing economy.

Scotland's historic environment has benefitted from a minimum of £26.8m, across 280 projects, in EU funding from 2007 to 2016. [Euclid – Assessing the European Union's contribution to the historic environment in Scotland since 2007](#). In a time of squeezed budgets, to see this potential funding-stream threatened, could be seen as potentially detrimental to the sector's intentions to innovate and collaborate.

Using climate as a driver for innovation within the sector, encouraging collaboration and equity of outcomes across Scotland's geography to address inequalities and addressing SIMD needs are already considered within the Scottish Government's Programme for Government. Aligning Scottish funding to these should, logically, fit the focus on *Inequalities* and *Deprivation* being suggested by Westminster.

Innovative solutions, such as prioritising preventative spend programmes, rather than solely championing economic gain should be given precedence; with any funding from this stream complimenting and amplifying existing funding sources, not duplicating. However, if match funding requirements are to continue, this fund should ensure there is enough overlap of objectives/aims/criteria so that applicants can secure it along with the necessary other funding streams.

When evaluation of any new funding is considered, it is of note that the National Performance Framework, and many of the EU Cohesion Policy indicators (as well as UN-SDGs) are either complimentary or already mapped convincingly. By aligning any fund outcomes and indicators to current mechanisms and policies, and using the assessment metrics already in place, Scotland can gain a deeper understanding of how any awarded funding contributes to the wider National picture. Using the same indicators would also enable projects receiving funding to have easier access to baseline data, both geographic and demographic.

Flexibility for the fund would be welcomed, with thematic approaches that have a national framework, but with the ability for locally-led priorities to be set. Simplified reporting mechanisms would further encourage local partner and community participation.

Our built environment is at the heart of a thriving Scotland:

It contributes over 66,000 jobs; in excess of £2.3 billion to Scotland's economy, with £2.9 billion in gross value added in 2017.

It contributes to our sense of wellbeing – those who visited a historic or archaeological place were over 50% more likely to report a high life satisfaction than those who did not visit.

It matters to people, 89% of adults strongly agreed or agreed "it is important to me that heritage buildings, monuments and places are well looked after".

It contributes to minimising carbon emissions -1/5 of dwellings are almost 100 years old and comprise embodied energy. Re-use and maintenance of this existing building stock supports reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

By using climate as a driver for this fund's outcomes, the historic environment can further demonstrate that our existing built environment is the most sustainable resource we have, part of our national infrastructure. The embodied energy present, and the potential for positive, innovative, interventions is huge. Adapting and repurposing these buildings presents an enormous opportunity to provide climate solutions, solutions which benefit people and place.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

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Responding on behalf of an Organisation - **BEFS** (Built Environment Forum Scotland)

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: **Publish response with name**

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise? **YES**