



Cornwall Council response to Consultation on the future 'EU2020' strategy

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Consultation on the future 'EU2020' strategy

Cornwall Council supports and welcomes the discussion and analysis of the Commission Working Document for the consultation on the future 'EU 2020' strategy, and specifically the identification of the:

- Impact of the present global economic and financial crisis;
- The need for the exit to be geared to a new socially sustainable, greener, market economy where our prosperity is based on a more knowledge based and innovative economy which is both much more resource and material efficient, with a substantially lower carbon intensity and exploits these drivers as a source of development and jobs;
- And, that this will all be within very different, constrained, public finances and a demography dominated by an aging society where employment rates will need to be higher and for longer.

The three thematic drivers appear to be correct.

However Cornwall Council would like to make the following observations:

- The role and potential of the digital economy should receive even greater emphasis across all three priorities – the impact on society and the economy has already been immense and the next generation of broadband infrastructure, and the as yet unknown applications and business uses that will undoubtedly be developed, has the potential to have an impact as great if not greater than the effect that IT has had to date – but this will need to be interwoven into all three thematic priorities if it is to be fully realised.
- In the 'Making It Happen' section it is surprising not to see the successful model of structural fund delivery highlighted as a template for the delivery of the revised and refocused strategy. The experience of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly particularly with the 2000 – 06 Objective One Programme and now with the ERDF and ESF Convergence programmes has shown clear added value in the European structural fund approach to economic regeneration, including:
 - Regionally negotiated Operational Programme (for ERDF Convergence) and the Single Programming Document for Objective One
 - Multi-annual budget
 - Partnership working
 - Multi-level governance

- Acting as a magnet for other economic regeneration activities and a trigger for innovation
- Providing opportunity for pilots for new ways of working
- Business competitiveness and employment and skills tackled together – ERDF and ESF
- At a geographical scale that makes sense to the community – i.e. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

This has been a strong and effective model for economic regeneration delivery that has met the needs and aspirations at a local level and meshed within the European policy drivers, which should be part and parcel of the delivery of the new 'EU 2020' strategy.

Cornwall Council has recently launched its own economy 'green paper' which recognises the issues faced by the local economy – these are not dissimilar from those articulated in the EU2020 consultation paper, albeit from a much more regional perspective (www.cornwall.gov.uk/economygreenpaper). This green paper recognises that serious choices will need to be made as we prioritise our interventions in helping build a high value, knowledge based, 'green' economy, with opportunities for all, in a very different socio-economic climate Cornwall Council looks forward to the further development of the 'EU 2020' strategy and playing a full role both in its development and implementation.

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