

# **PROPOSED FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR ERDF COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME (LOWLANDS & UPLANDS SCOTLAND)**

## **Priority 1 – Innovation and enterprise development**

**Aim: To enable Scotland to improve and make full economic use of its RTD base and enhance the business support environment for entrepreneurship and new and high-growth potential enterprises**

**Parent strategies: Smart Successful Scotland**

### **Objectives:**

- To support the commercialisation of the region's RTD base
- To improve the quality of management to enable enterprises to grow through innovation
- To improve access to finance to support the development of new and high-growth potential enterprises
- To increase the new firm formation rate in Scotland by encouraging entrepreneurship and improving the business support environment

## **Priority 2 – Community regeneration**

**Aim: To address the social exclusion challenges of the most disadvantaged communities within the region**

**Parent strategies: Closing the Opportunity Gap; Scottish Rural Development Strategy**

### **Objectives:**

- To support locally-based community regeneration initiatives
- To complement the social inclusion activity under the ESF programme with appropriate infrastructure investments in the most vulnerable communities
- To increase the capacity of disadvantaged communities to attract and sustain SME activity

### **Priority 3 – Environmental and rural sustainability**

**Aim: To promote the sustainable economic use of environmental assets alternative energy sources and address the specific challenges of peripherality and economic sustainability in rural areas**

Parent strategies: Rural Scotland – A New Approach; Securing a Renewable Future; National Planning Framework for Scotland; Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy; Green Jobs strategy

#### Objectives:

- To support the development of a wide range of renewable energy technologies (particularly offshore wind, biomass and marine) and maximise their economic, social and environmental value
- To enhance the sustainable socio-economic development of the region's natural assets, particularly with respect to tourism
- To encourage the diversification and sustainability of rural economic activity, with particular attention to areas of activity not supported by the Scottish Rural Development Plan
- To support the development of low-emission public transport
- To support the safe re-use of small-scale, strategic contaminated land sites for economic, social and environmental purposes