

NORTH WEST COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2007-13

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

No	Question
1.	<p>Do the socio-economic and SWOT analyses accurately identify the region's key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats? <i>(Pages 7-45)</i></p> <p>Yes – but strengths in some parts of the region could be seen as opportunities in other parts e.g. South Manchester. What are the lessons learned?</p>
2.	<p>Does the Strategy Chapter (Section 3) provide a strong logic for the NWOP Priorities? <i>(Pages 46-66)</i></p> <p>Yes – but emphasis should be on added value. There seems to be a long shopping list but a small budget available.</p> <p>It is good that employment opportunities are not just about physical access.</p>
3.	<p>What is your preferred option for the balance of resources across the four NWOP (in Section 6) for: <i>(Pages 113-118)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Merseyside phasing-in area <i>(A, B,C or a variation – see P117)</i>• The rest of the North West <i>(1, 2,3 or a variation – see P116)</i> <p>Technical assistance should be applied across the 4 priorities equally. Question: how has the 2% been calculated.</p> <p>The dilemma should be acknowledged between the 4 priorities – delivering Lisbon agenda but enterprise and connectivity are also key drivers.</p>

4.	<p>For each of the NWOP Priorities (Pages 67-103)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OP1 (Enterprise and Business Growth) (Pages 69-78) • OP2 (Knowledge Transfer and Innovation) (Pages 69 and 78-85) • OP3 (Conditions for Sustainable Growth) (Pages 85-92) • OP4 (Growing and Accessing Employment) (Pages 93-101) <p>➤ Do you agree with Action Areas that have been identified?</p>
	<p>➤ What relative weight in resource allocation terms should be given to the Action Areas?</p> <p>It should be up to regional partners to decide what and who is funding what/where etc.</p>
	<p>➤ Do you agree with the indicative activities proposed under each of the Action Area?</p> <p>Yes</p>
	<p>➤ What are the most appropriate implementation/delivery arrangements?</p> <p>Sub-regional autonomy in the Merseyside area will ensure that lessons learnt already will not be lost.</p> <p>The role of the NWDA needs to be defined to ensure transparency in project selections and support and also in terms of capacity to manage the highly complicated programme.</p>

	<p>➤ What outputs, results and impact indicators should be included?</p> <p>All outputs and indicators should be in line with LAA targets for P4 at least. Similarly, they should all be supportive of the actions that can be funded via LEGI.</p>
	<p>➤ Any other comments?</p>
5.	<p>What are your views on the treatment of CCTs in the NWOP? <i>(Pages 104-112)</i></p> <p>Climate change is picked up in AA1-3 but sustainable consumption needs some form of exemplar projects/reference tool for the focus to become clear.</p> <p>Equality and Diversity need to be picked up in the same way as Environmental Sustainability under each AA.</p>
6.	<p>How can the NWOP ensure appropriate integration and alignment with other European Structural Funds, in particular ESF and EARDF? <i>(Pages 119-122)</i></p> <p>Through the appraisal processes – this was an issue in the last Programme period where ESF and ERDF were not easily aligned.</p> <p>Relevant governance structures will need to take into account funding from other Structural Funds sources.</p>

7.	<p>Does the NWOP adequately address the key Programme issues for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Merseyside Phasing-In Area? Key Programme issues are addressed to some extent, but more needs to be included to ensure that current good practice is maintained.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The North West's other sub-regions?
8.	<p>What are your views on the most appropriate governance and management arrangements for the NWOP? (Page 128)</p> <p>The organisation which manages the monies available must have sufficient structures in place to ensure transparency in project selection and support and also have sufficient capacity to manage a highly complicated programme.</p> <p>Governance at a sub-regional basis, involving all relevant partner organisations would be useful to ensure that existing structures are used to their full potential.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Comments?</p>

Name Position Organisation

Contact Tel. No. Email address

Please return your responses either by email to margaret.reid@nwra.gov.uk or by post to Margaret Reid, European Policy Manager, North West Regional Assembly, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan WN3 5BA