OUR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

101. This section of the report presents our findings under the three inquiry themes of ‘Strategy and Policy’, ‘Partnership Working’ and ‘Practical Issues’, as well as a short additional section that examines EU funding aspects of regeneration activity.

102. Each inquiry theme examines actions in the regeneration strategy and summarises evidence received on related issues. Our resulting findings are then outlined for each inquiry theme.

THEME 1: STRATEGY AND POLICY

103. This theme of inquiry considers how the Scottish Government’s regeneration strategy supports the co-ordination of national and local strategies and policies to deliver best practice in regeneration in Scotland.

104. We acknowledge several factors from the outset. Policy and strategy related to the delivery of regeneration in Scotland is necessarily cross-cutting and broad in scope. It inevitably involves a complex map of actions, long term programmes and short term interventions, and capital and revenue support, delivered by both individual agencies and through multi-agency programmes.

105. Bearing this in mind, we were interested to examine whether any improvements could be made at a strategic and policy level. In particular covering joined up planning and delivery of activity that supports regeneration for deprived communities. We also considered the balance in policy and associated funding between physical, social and economic regeneration.

106. The following three related questions were set out under this theme in our call for evidence and our findings are set out below—

| 1. How can the linkage between the various strategies and policies related to regeneration be improved? |
| 2. Can physical, social and economic regeneration really be separate entities? |
| 3. Are we achieving the best value from investment in this area? If not, how could funding achieve the maximum impact? Could the funding available be used in different ways to support regeneration? |

The strategic link between regeneration and public services reform

107. Over the last two years, we have undertaken two major inquiries; our three-strand public services reform inquiry which we completed in the summer of 2013, and this inquiry, into the delivery of regeneration in Scotland. It is clear, through the vast amount of evidence we have considered, that the vision of the regeneration strategy is strongly linked to the recommendations of the Christie Commission and can be only be achieved through effective public service reform, by—