



**European Union**

European Structural  
and Investment Funds

**European Structural and Investment Funds  
2014 - 2020**

**Growth Programme for England**

## **ESI Funds Growth Programme Board**

### **Progress on ESF**

#### **Purpose:**

This paper provides a progress update to the Board on the ESF Programme.

#### **Recommendations:**

That the Board notes the current position, taken on 12 February 2016.

#### **Summary:**

- We have made good progress in committing a substantial amount of the programme.
- The picture differs across the country and across the Investment Priorities.
- Further calls will be developed in the coming weeks, aiming to focus on where the gaps are largest.

### **Calls and applications update**

#### **Open Calls**

1. There are currently no open calls for ESF. The last call closed on 15<sup>th</sup> February and was within the Liverpool City Region against Investment Priority (IP) 2.1 (valued at £0.5m) and IP 2.2 (value £3.7m). Prior to this there was a call against for IP 2.2 - Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems - in the only Less Developed region, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly. There was a total of £1m available through this call.

#### **Application status**

2. For all of the application information and the subsequent data contained in this paper the figures referenced includes both the ESF Managing Authority (MA) and the Intermediary Body for London, the Greater London Authority (GLA).

#### **Direct Bids**

3. The 85 full applications received in response to the direct calls so far for ESF/YEI have a combined value of £186m of which £62m is ESF and £124m is YEI.

4. We expect to complete funding agreements for them all, and have started this process. At the time of writing, we had completed (issued and received back) one ESF funding agreement worth £0.5m and two YEI funding agreements worth £33.81m.
5. As previously reported, there were no responses to the YEI call in London, and that means the London allocation is not committed. We continue to consider options, aware that the window for ensuring complete commitment is diminishing. The risk to commitment relates primarily to the lack of fit between the strictly circumscribed conditions attaching to YEI and local circumstances in the areas to which it has been allocated.

#### Technical Assistance

6. 42 TA applications have been taken through to Full Application stage so far with a total ESF requested amount of £16.88m. This is against a national TA allocation for this TA call of £60m.

#### **ESF Opt-in / Co-Financing Organisations (CFOs)**

##### Big Lottery Fund Applications

7. 45 Big Lottery Fund Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been agreed with a value of £172.92m of ESF.

##### Department of Work & Pensions Applications

8. There have been 10 MoUs agreed with DWP. These MoUs are for £59.75m of ESF. We expect further applications in the next few weeks

##### National Offender Management Service Applications

9. NOMS have two MoUs which cover England with the exception of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The MoUs are for £131.00m of ESF.

##### Skills Funding Agency Applications

10. There have been 83 SFA MoUs, with the value of £722.89m ESF

#### **Commitments at Priority Axis level**

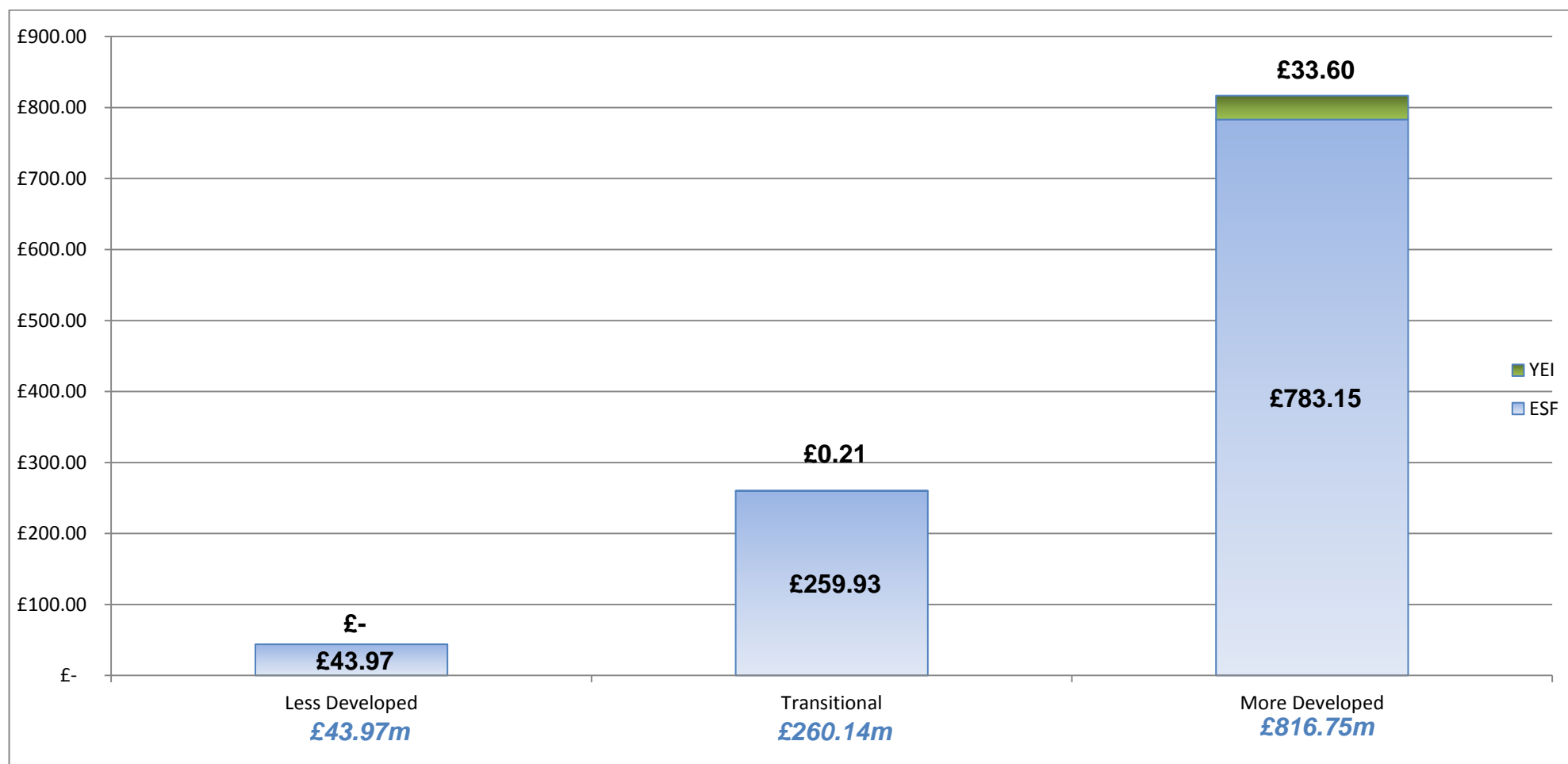
11. Taking the direct calls and the CFO MoUs together, we are making good progress against the values in the Operational Programme.
12. However, the picture is not consistently positive across the country. In a handful of LEP areas the total percentage committed is less than 25%. In the next round of calls we will prioritise those areas which are further behind.

## **Next steps**

13. Most of the applications received in response to the May calls have been approved, with Funding Agreements being issued daily. All the YEI bids that were approved have now been issued with a Funding Agreement, and activity has started on the ground.
14. Technical Assistance applications that were received earlier in the call window are now also approved, and Funding Agreements are on their way out to applicants. Those received at the end of the call window (October) are proceeding through committees and should receive the invitation to progress to Full Application in the coming weeks.
15. We continue to work with local committees to understand their call aspirations, and have a rolling programme of calls scheduled in for the coming months.

March 2016  
DWP

## Annex A - Value of Funding Agreements (£m) by Category of Region



**Annex B - Value of Funding Agreements (£m) by Investment Priority**

