



European Union

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

Growth Programme for England

Greater Birmingham and Solihull (GBSLEP) ESI Funds Sub-Committee

Minutes of meeting held 06 November 2019

Room GB, MHCLG Offices, 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2PW

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 02 August 2019 meeting and action update
3. EAFRD Update
4. ESF Update
 - MA Update
 - MI Update
 - Full Appraisal Consideration; STEM Up
5. ESF Reserve Fund Request
6. ERDF Update
7. ERDF Outline Assessment Consideration

PA1

- AMCASH
- ARLI
- AU-APF
- BSEEN
- DEMAND Hub
- DI4M
- ETICC
- Promoting Functional Materials
- SmartFub
- STORYLab
- Think Beyond Data

PA3

- Aston Programme for Small Business Growth
- BGP2
- Enhanced Export Growth Project
- Enterprise Development and Growth

- EIGP
- MGP2
- PIP2
- STEAMincubator
- Strengthening the Automotive Supply Base
- The Midlands Internationalisation Fund
PA4
- EBRI

PA6

- BASIS
- Greening the Grey

8. Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) Update

9. Any other Business

1. Welcome and introduction

1.1. Cllr Ian Courts (The Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting and the apologies were listed.

2. Minutes of 02 August 2019 meeting and action update

2.1. Sub Committee members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate record.

2.2. Action 1) Liz Grove (LG) confirmed that this action had been superseded by the update on the ESF National Reserve Pot.

2.3. Action 2) LG confirmed that a press release to promote the June 2019 call had been published and circulated to CLG.

2.4. Action 3) LG confirmed that this action had been superseded with the update on the ESF National Reserve Pot.

2.5. Action 4) It was agreed the possibility of moving unspent PA4 & PA6 allocation to the SUD allocation would be discussed during the MEIF update later in the agenda.

3. EAFRD Update

3.1. Jo Jury (JJ) summarised the EAFRD papers circulated prior to the meeting.

3.2. Round three of the Grant Programme was launched 04 November 2019 as part of an EAFRD National Reserve Fund and includes a tourism, business and food call. The Grant Programme has a £20k grant minimum giving opportunities for small businesses to apply. It was clarified that depending on the activity food businesses in urban areas were eligible with a £750k max grant. First stage expressions of interest have a 16

February 2020 deadline. The MA are working closely with adjoining LEP areas including Worcestershire LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP.

- 3.3. Members were encouraged to promote the calls to businesses. JJ clarified that applications are to be made online and the expressions of interest process is very straight forward. For more information on how to apply go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme>

4. ESF Update

- 4.1. Harjinder Dhami (HD) circulated a Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) newsletter (see Annex D) and summarised the ESF papers circulated to members prior to the meeting.
- 4.2. It was agreed that the Prosperous Future Full Appraisal would be circulated to members via written procedure for consideration.
- 4.3. The STEM Full Appraisal was considered by members. HD provided a verbal summary of the appraisal. Mark Reed (MR) summarised comments from TWG. Members agreed to support the project. HD agreed to discuss the potential of slipping the start date of the project back with the applicant.

5. ESF Reserve Fund Request

- 5.1. Maria Lopez (ML) summarised the ESF Reserve Fund paper circulated prior to the meeting. Members agreed to the proposal to have further ESF reserve fund calls. It was clarified that there will be fortnightly Reserve Fund meetings, 2.1 calls will come forward on another occasion.

6. ERDF Update

- 6.1. DCo provided a verbal summary of the ERDF Update paper circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

7. ERDF Outline Assessment Consideration

- 7.1. Prior to considering the Outline Assessments DCo clarified that the MA were not accepting overcommitment of LEP areas' PA notional ERDF allocations. However, it is anticipated that a National Reserve fund will be established which may provide an opportunity for those that are not supported to re-apply for ERDF. Any slippage of contracted projects will be fed into the ERDF National Reserve Fund.
- 7.2. 25 Outline assessments were presented to members for consideration. Please refer to Annex C. To summarise;
- 7.3. **PA1** StoryLab and ETICC were not supported, all other projects were supported. It was agreed that all supported projects would have a condition requesting that the ERDF requested in the Full Application is less than the Outline Application by a pro rata

amount so that the PA1 ERDF GBSLEP Notional Allocation is not exceeded. It was estimated that this would be roughly 10% across the board. Members noted that there were several materials and advanced material projects in the LEP area and suggested it would be prudent to join up marketing and clarify linkages. Mark Smith (MS) agreed to explore building a link between the organisations.

7.4. **PA3** The value of applications received exceeded the remaining allocation for MD in the LEP's PA3 allocation. Applications were subsequently prioritised looking as Strategic Fit, Value for Money, Performance and deliverability. EIGP, Strengthening Automotive Supply Base, The Midlands Internationalisation Fund and STEAMIncubator were not supported, all other projects were supported. It was agreed that PIP2 and BGP 2 capital grant continuation projects would be supported, but that their requests would be subject to an equal pro-rata amount so that the PA3 ERDF GBSLEP Notional Allocation is not exceeded once the value of those not supported had been taken into account.

7.5. **PA4** EBRI was supported.

7.6. **PA6** both projects were supported by the GBSLEP ESIF Sub Committee. It was agreed that the BASIS project would look to reduce the ERDF amount requested by £100k so that the PA6 ERDF GBSLEP Notional Allocation is not exceeded.

8. Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) Update

8.1. DCo provided a verbal summary of the MEIF paper circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members supported investing under commitment principally from PA4 in the Midlands Engine Investment Fund.

9. Any Other Business

9.1. It was queried whether the WM5G outline application was missed as was not included in the suite of Outline Assessments considered during the meeting. DCo made members aware that the application was rejected at gateway stage by the MA.

Date, time and venue of future meetings: TBC

Annex A

List of Agreed Actions from [Date] [Insert LEP area] Sub-Committee Meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Action Assigned to
	N/a	

Annex B Attendee List

Greater Birmingham and Solihull (GBSLEP) ESI Funds Sub-Committee 06 November 2019 meeting

Chair & Deputy Chair:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Cllr Ian Courts	Local Authority (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council)
Darren Cope	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)

Sub-Committee Members:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
David Caro	Private Sector
Harjinder Dhami	ESF Managing Authority (DWP)
Jo Jury	EAFRD Managing Authority (RPA)
Cllr Sir Albert Bore	Local Authority (Birmingham City Council)
Mark Smith	Higher Education (Aston University)
Paul Edwards	GBSLEP

Others in attendance (non-members - including secretariat):

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Maria Lopez	Employment and Skills
Mark Reed	Local Authority (Birmingham City Council)
Tom Sheppard	ESF Managing Authority (DWP)
Liz Grove	Local Authority (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council)
Alexander Collins (Minutes)	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)
Satwant Beghal	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)

Apologies:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Cllr Matthew Dormer	Local Authority (Overlap)
Lloyd Broad	Local Authority (Birmingham City Council)
Cllr Tony Johnson	Local Authority (Transitional)
Dawn Ward	FE Sector
Amanda Bailey	Employment and Skills
Rachel Egan	WMCA
Peter Clarke	Environment Agency
Cllr Fran Oborski	Local Authority (Overlap)
Michelle Nutt	BEIS