



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

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

Growth Programme for England

New Anglia LEP Area ESIF Sub Committee

Minutes of meeting held 26 November 2018 10.00am-11.30pm

Suffolk CC/Waveney DC, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 24 April 2018 and action update
3. Changes to the New Anglia ESIF Strategy
4. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme Update
5. ERDF update on contracted projects and calls
6. European Social Fund (ESF) National Programme Update
7. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Programme Update
8. AOB

1. Welcome and introduction

1.1 The **Chair** welcomed attendees and apologies were noted as at Annex B.

2. Minutes of 24 April 2018 meeting and progress of actions

2.1. The **Chair** reviewed open actions. Action A11 remains open: Joanna Wright to send breakdown of ESF projects for Secretariat to be sent out

2.2. The 24 April 2018 draft minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Changes to New Anglia ESIF Strategy

3.1. **Emma Taylor** set out the proposed changes to the New Anglia ESIF Strategy. A rationale for the proposal to make a change to the sub-categories of investment eligible under Priority Axis (PA) 1 (Research and Innovation) was presented, which would make it easier to include capital investment in research and innovation facilities in PA1 projects. The ESIF Sub Committee gave its views on the proposed change in principle. Broadly the proposal was considered a logical step that would attract more good project proposals. It was noted that capital projects would have to be big enough to have an impact on revenue

outputs and would need to be well-focussed. **Emma Taylor** said that the revised ESIF Strategy would need to be completed by Spring 2019 in order to inform the next round of calls. The final draft of the revised strategy will be circulated by written procedure for the ESIF Sub Committee's approval.

4. ERDF National Programme Update

- 4.1. **Emily Wright** updated the meeting on progress with the programme, highlighting key points from the national update. There had been good feedback for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund consultation events.
- 4.2. ERDF had legally committed £1,509 million of ERDF funding with 572 projects. A further 434 applications to the value of £786 million ERDF were currently under consideration.
- 4.3. The ESIF Sub Committee discussed how decisions by written procedure were currently handled by the Secretariat. There was support for the idea of sharing comments with other ESIF Sub Committee members while the written procedure was open. The Secretariat agreed to look at the feasibility of this and feed back to the ESIF Sub Committee.

Action 1:

- **Secretariat to feed back to the ESIF Sub Committee on whether written procedure comments can be shared with other members while the written procedure is open.**

5. ERDF update on contracted projects and calls

- 5.1. **Emily Wright** introduced the item. The ESIF Sub Committee was provided with an updated position on the progress of applications in each of the ERDF Priority Axes, and the remaining funds available, as set out in the paper.
- 5.2. The next call is due in Spring 2019. The latest call, under Priority Axes 1 and 3, closed on 23 November 2018.

6. ESF National Programme Update

- 6.1. In the absence of a Managing Authority (MA) representative due to the priority being given to meeting the ESF N+3 target, the ESIF Sub Committee reviewed the written update provided.
- 6.2. The ESIF Sub Committee expressed disquiet at the impact of the decision to concentrate on N+3 and said that it had affected their understanding of the ESF programme at an important stage, particularly considering the importance of skills in future.

7. EAFRD National Programme Update

7.1. In the absence of an MA representative due to the priority being given to appraising full applications, the ESIF Sub Committee reviewed the written update provided. It was agreed that commitment levels looked good in the New Anglia area.

8. AOB

8.1. **Natasha Waller** raised the matter of extensions to Building Better Opportunities (BBO) projects which have been offered by the Big Lottery Fund (BLF). The New Anglia area has four BBO projects. It was agreed that Secretariat would circulate BLF's offer for comments from the ESIF Sub Committee for Natasha to feed back in her response. The ESIF Sub Committee also said that links with the Big Lottery Fund could be improved and it was agreed to find an up to date contact to invite to future ESIF Sub Committee meetings.

8.2. **Iain Dunnett** updated the meeting about current progress on the LEP Growth Deal. He emphasised that the LEP was looking for a wide range of projects, with more diversity and more cultural impacts. He also mentioned the Greater South East Energy Hub which has an objective to scale up small and medium-sized energy projects.

8.3. The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Action 2:

- **Secretariat to circulate Building Better Opportunities project extension offer for comment from the ESIF Sub Committee to inform the New Anglia LEP's response. [action complete]**

Action 3:

- **Secretariat to check with Natasha Waller for name of current BLF contact and invite to next ESIF Sub Committee meeting.**

Date, time and venue of future meetings:

- To be confirmed by Secretariat. Due to be held in a Norfolk location.

Annex A

List of Agreed Actions from 24 April 2018 New Anglia LEP area Sub-Committee Meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Action Assigned to
3	Action 1: Secretariat to feed back to the ESIF Sub Committee on whether written procedure comments can be shared with other members while the written procedure is open.	ERDF Managing Authority
8	Action 2: Secretariat to circulate Building Better Opportunities project extension offer for comment from the ESIF Sub Committee to inform the New Anglia LEP's response. [action complete]	ERDF Managing Authority
8	Action 3: Secretariat to check with Natasha Waller for name of current BLF contact and invite to next ESIF Sub Committee meeting.	ERDF Managing Authority

Annex B

Attendee List

New Anglia LEP Area ESIF Sub-Committee 26 November 2018 meeting

Chair & Deputy Chair:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Richard Powell OBE	Chair

Sub-Committee Members:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Alex Till	Private Sector representatives
Emily Wright	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)
Iain Dunnett	New Anglia LEP
Matt Jones	Local Authority
Ben Turner	Rural
Nick Burfield	Private Sector representatives
Nina Cunningham	Local Authority
Susan Sayce	Trade Union
Andrew Wilson	Private Sector representatives
Hannah Reid	Voluntary and Civil Society
Ian Beggs	Higher Education
Stuart Durrell (for Julia Nix)	DWP
Ben Porter	Local Authority
Pat Holtom	Rural

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

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Emma Taylor	New Anglia LEP, Observer
Natasha Waller	New Anglia LEP
Tim Whelehan	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)

Apologies:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Ian Beggs	Higher Education
Julia Nix	DWP Equalities
Christopher Soule	Private Sector representatives
Georgia Pritchard	Deputy Chair, ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)
Karen Staples	Local Authority
Mohua Bhattacharya	EAFRD Managing Authority (RPA)
Joanna Wright	ESF Managing Authority (DWP)