

**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 28 March 2019 13.30-16.00**

Meeting Room 1&2, 3rd Floor, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich,
NR1 2SG

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 26 November 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. ERDF outline assessments
7. European Social Fund (ESF) National Programme Update
8. ESF assessments
9. ESF in New Anglia: update
10. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Programme Update
11. AOB

1. Welcome and introduction

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

2. Minutes of 26 November 2018 meeting and progress of actions

- 2.1. The ESIF Sub Committee reviewed the minutes. A mistake was found at the top of page 2 – “2018” should read “2019”. Secretariat will make the change. Otherwise the 26 November 2018 draft minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.2. The Chair reviewed the actions. Tim Birch was identified as the National Lottery Community Fund (formerly Big Lottery Fund) contact. In future Emma Taylor will circulate Building Better Opportunities reports via the Secretariat.
- 2.3. The Secretariat confirmed that in response to action 1, in future comments made during written procedures will be shared with the ESIF Sub Committee members while the written procedure is open.

3. Changes to New Anglia ESIF Strategy

- 3.1. **Emma Taylor** introduced the updated New Anglia ESIF Strategy which had been discussed in principle at the 26 November 2018 ESIF Sub Committee. The ESIF Sub Committee approved the proposed changes. The updated strategy will now be sent to the ERDF Managing Authority (MA).

Action 1:

- **Emma Taylor to send updated New Anglia ESIF Strategy to ERDF MA and arrange for it to be made available on the LEP website.**

4. ERDF National Programme Update

- 4.1. **Emily Wright** updated the meeting on progress with the programme, highlighting key points from the national update. The next ERDF call will be in June 2019. A case study booklet is now out and available online. In response to a question on the ERDF Reserve Fund about whether decision making would be done centrally, **Emily Wright** confirmed that there will be local appraisal and that it had not yet been decided how applications would be prioritised. **Georgia Pritchard** noted that applications to the June call should be encouraged as this will be locally-specific.

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. **Emily Wright** noted that £1.57m would be returned to the Priority Axis 1 amount due to a de-commitment on one project.

6. ERDF Outline Assessments /Appraisal

DRIVE

- 6.1. **Karen Gibson** and **Matt Jones** declared an interest and left the meeting.
- 6.2. **Emily Wright** introduced the project. The applicant is seeking £3,000,000 ERDF to introduce a rural-focused growth project using the established Local Action Group mechanism.
- 6.3. The ESIF Sub Committee advised that the applicant needed to make contact with those delivering the Growth Hub. The ESIF Sub Committee agreed that the proposal had strategic fit.

Ingenuity

- 6.4. **Karen Gibson** declared an interest and left the meeting.
- 6.5. **Emily Wright** introduced the project. The applicant is seeking £1,584,873 ERDF for a project to increase the adoption of innovative business practices and technologies.
- 6.6. The ESIF Sub Committee was of the view that the project would benefit from strategic alignment with the Invest East programme and the Low Carbon Innovation Fund. The question was raised about whether the project would fit better under Priority Axis 3.

New Anglia Innovation, Research and Development Grant Scheme

- 6.7. **Emma Taylor** and **Natasha Waller** declared an interest and left the meeting.
- 6.8. **Tim Whelehan** introduced the project. The applicant is seeking £2,241,463 ERDF to fund a grant scheme to support SMEs in research and development and the introduction of innovative products.
- 6.9. The ESIF Sub Committee was of the view that it was important that communications about the project were effective, both to reach innovative businesses and dispel concerns about the complexity of grant projects. The communications plan should demonstrate this. In addition the ESIF Sub Committee felt it was particularly important that the project reached innovative rural businesses, including those in the Agritech sector and those looking to diversify and should take advice from the National Farmers' Union on how to do this.
- 6.10. The ESIF Sub Committee agreed that the proposal had local strategic fit and addressed the strategic priorities.

Better Off in Business Phase 2

- 6.11. **Alex Till** declared an interest and left the meeting.
- 6.12. **Emily Wright** introduced the project. The applicant is seeking £2,296,922 to increase entrepreneurship across nine LEP areas.
- 6.13. The ESIF Sub Committee was of the view that the current project was delivering well. The phase 2 project had strategic fit but needed to ensure that it was more visible to local stakeholders.

7. ESF National Programme Update

- 7.1. **Joanna Wright** gave the update based on her paper. It was confirmed that the national N+3 target had been met and drew attention to the recent letter to ESIF Sub Committees from the Department for Work and Pensions about E Claims. It was noted that there is a mistake on the MI paper, the IP1.1 pipeline should show as 91%. Broadly in the New Anglia LEP area there is a good level of ESF activity and the programme is 55.43% committed.

8. ESF assessments

- 8.1. **Joanna Wright** introduced the item. Where complementary projects addressed different Investment Priorities, they were discussed together.

Chances: Healthy living (IP1.4) / Chances for Work (IP1.1)

- 8.2. The applicant (Norfolk County Council) is seeking £1,100,188 of ESF under IP1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People and £1,618,751 ESF under IP1.4 Active Inclusion to develop a locally integrated health and employment service.

- 8.3. **Karen Gibson, Matt Jones, Natasha Waller and Emma Taylor** declared an interest and left the meeting. **Joanna Wright** introduced the projects, noting that they scored well on appraisal.
- 8.4. The ESIF Sub Committee raised the questions of how the impact of the projects could be measured in rural areas. **Joanna Wright** agreed to feed that back.
- 8.5. The ESIF Sub Committee noted that there had been recent advances in health integration and that the project needed to fit in with those existing services and the health structures that are changing at primary care level. Overall the applicant needed to be aware of recent developments such as help hubs and social prescribing and look at what scope there was to support employers that engage with the project.
- 8.6. The ESIF Sub Committee advised that the projects had strategic fit.

Work Well Suffolk (1.1) / Work Well Suffolk (1.4)

- 8.7. The applicant (Suffolk County Council) is seeking £1,250,000 ESF under IP1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People and £750,000 ESF under IP1.4 Active Inclusion to develop a locally integrated health and employment service.
- 8.8. **Alex Till, Natasha Waller and Emma Taylor** declared an interest and left the meeting. **Joanna Wright** introduced the projects.
- 8.9. The ESIF Sub Committee noted that the project would need to fit with changing health structures and adapt to developments such as social prescribing. The ESIF Sub Committee stated the need to avoid overlap with the Norfolk projects considered above and asked that a condition be added to ensure contact between the Suffolk and Norfolk projects. It was thought it would be helpful if the applicants looked at creating a single monitoring team or joint working group themselves, to share good practice and prevent overlap.
- 8.10. The ESIF Sub Committee advised that the projects had strategic fit.

Norfolk and Waveney Community Projects (1.1) / Norfolk and Waveney Community Projects (1.4)

- 8.11. The applicant (East Coast College) is seeking £616,296 ESF under IP1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People and £783,478 ESF under IP1.4 Active Inclusion to develop an integrated employment service operating in Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.
- 8.12. There were no declarations of interest. **Joanna Wright** introduced the projects. All outline conditions have been met, though the projects have slightly lower appraisal score than the two sets of projects discussed above.
- 8.13. The ESIF Sub Committee noted that the packages of activity seemed large for many voluntary and community sector providers and wanted to see clear reporting of measures on gender.

8.14. The ESIF Sub Committee advised that the projects had strategic fit.

Conclusion

8.15. The ESIF Sub Committee then discussed the three pairs of projects overall, bearing in mind that IP1.1 is overspent against the call value. The ESIF Sub Committee concluded that co-ordination between the projects and with other services operating in the same area was a key consideration and that a system needed to be in place to facilitate that. The offer needed to be well defined and it was felt that pathway modelling showing who would be referred to which service would be useful.

9. ESF in New Anglia: update

9.1. **Emma Taylor** gave a verbal update. Currently there is one ESF call outstanding, and Emma wished to share the thinking before publication. Currently, £1m has been set aside for a health and social care employment hub. There is £2m to support looking widely at the priority 2.2 sector development call. **Emma Taylor** stressed the importance of the relevance of training, with employers and trainers working together. This area is the most flexible part of ESF. There are sector skills plans and it would be good to integrate with them. The Call is expected to be published in September 2019. **Emma Taylor** encouraged members to come forward with new ESF call ideas.

10. EAFRD National Programme Update

10.1. 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. The EAFRD programme is fully committed in the New Anglia area and work is going ahead on contracting.

11. AOB

11.1. **Pat Holtom** reminded the ESIF Sub Committee that a new round of LEADER programme would be opening. The key deadlines are 16 April 2019 for expressions of interest and the end of April 2019 for full applications. The funds have been pooled by five Local Action Groups.

11.2. **Chris Soule** asked that, in order to make the meeting papers easier to use in digital format, the papers could be have the paper title shown immediately after the item number in the title. He also urged that projects should be encouraged to make use of technology as far as possible in reporting progress and holding meetings.

11.3. The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Action 2:

- **Secretariat to change naming format for ESIF Sub Committee papers to show paper name, instead of meeting date, after item number.**

Date, time and venue of future meetings:

- 10.30-12.30, Monday 8 July, Endeavour House Ipswich. September meeting date to be confirmed by Secretariat.

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Annex A

List of Agreed Actions from 28 March 2019 New Anglia LEP area Sub-Committee Meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Action Assigned to
3	Emma Taylor to send updated New Anglia ESIF Strategy to ERDF MA and arrange for it to be made available on the LEP website.	Emma Taylor
11	Secretariat to change naming format for ESIF Sub Committee papers to show paper name, instead of meeting date, after item number.	ERDF Managing Authority

Annex B

Attendee List

New Anglia LEP Area ESIF Sub-Committee 28 March 2019 meeting

Chair & Deputy Chair:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Richard Powell OBE	Chair
Georgia Pritchard	Deputy Chair, ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)

Sub-Committee Members:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Alex Till	Private Sector representatives
Emily Wright	ERDF Managing Authority (MHCLG)
Matt Jones	Local Authority
Ben Turner	Rural
Nick Burfield	Private Sector representatives
Nina Cunningham	Local Authority
Susan Sayce	Trade Union
Ian Beggs	Higher Education
Stuart Durrell (for Julia Nix)	DWP
Pat Holtom	Rural
Andrew Wheeler	Further Education
Karen Gibson	Local Authority
Jon Clemo	Voluntary and Civil Society
Ian Beggs	Higher Education
Christopher Soule	Private Sector representatives
Joanna Wright	ESF Managing Authority (DWP)

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)
Hugh Goldring	ERDF Facilitator
Martin Magnago	ERDF Managing Authority, Observer

Apologies:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation
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	Representing
Andrew Wilson	Private Sector representatives
Julia Nix	DWP Equalities
Hannah Reid	Voluntary and Civil Society
Andrea Walker	Local Authority
David Sillett	EAFRD Managing Authority (RPA)