



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

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

Growth Programme for England

Lancashire ESI Funds Sub-Committee

Minutes of meeting held 12/10/2016 Conservation Studios, Preston

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 6th July 2016
3. ESIF Spreadsheet – Overall programme
4. ESIF Submission to Treasury (Autumn Statement 2016) – ERDF/ESF/EAFRD
5. Update; ERDF/ESF/EAFRD
6. Evergreen
7. A.O.B.

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and the Secretariat notified the committee of apologies received.

2. Minutes of 06/07/2016 meeting and action update

The minutes were agreed.

3. ESIF Spreadsheet – Overall Programme

NR presented a paper on Lancashire ESIF Funding 2014-2020 and explained that this template would be presented at each committee meeting. The paper provided an overview of all of the Lancashire projects and their status. It also provided details of recent and planned calls, and funding allocations.

SM confirmed that the Local Investment Fund, aimed at social enterprises, was no longer going ahead. So as not to lose funds, it is proposed that the amount is amalgamated into the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (subject to confirmation based upon demand etc).

Whilst supportive of the amalgamation of the indicative Local Investment Fund allocation into the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, Garth Hodgkinson, the voluntary sector representative, raised concerns that this change would mean that there is no longer any dedicated resources going into the social enterprise and third sector from the Lancashire ESIF programme. He suggested that the committee consider requesting that the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund consider establishing a sub fund for social enterprises and the wider third sector to help tackle social and economic inclusion through social enterprise.

NR presented papers on ERDF and ESF outputs. The report provided a programme level summary of each output. The position of some outputs was positive but on others there was still some way to go.

The committee had a discussion regarding the targets and what would happen if we did not meet them. It was stated that all of the funding allocation was needed to meet the overall targets. It was acknowledged that Broadband targets were not achievable due to the success of the current Superfast Broadband rollout in Lancashire. The LEP has drafted a paper to DCLG to this effect, which also outlined the request for movement of allocations between P4 and P1.

4. ESIF submission to Treasury (Autumn Statement 2016) – ERDF/ESF/EAFRD

The committee discussed when the next calls may be published. AW advised the committee that we are waiting confirmation from Treasury when they can be published but did not have timescales at the moment.

The committee was advised that projects progressed pre Autumn Statement will be honoured. ESF/ERDF/EAFRD have requested that each LEP undertake an exercise to identify a post Autumn statement pipeline. A template containing the required information had been sent to the committee by written procedure for comments and sent to the Treasury on 7th October. SM talked through each of the priorities, and explained where money would potentially be moved between priorities (especially priorities 1,4 and 5)

5. Update; ERDF/ESF/EAFRD

5.1.ERDF

A paper was submitted to the committee outlining details of projects which had been sent to the committee via written procedure since the last meeting:

Outline Application

- Blackburn's Rivers Importance to Lancashire's Landscape (BRILLIANCE)
- Transmission

Full Application

- Lancashire Technical Assistance
- Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF)
- Enhancing SMEs International Trade Performance

The committee had confirmed via written procedure that they were happy for these projects to progress.

DCLG stressed that timelines for contracting of ERDF projects have to be adhered to. In order for GFAs to be sent out and projects contracted prior to the Autumn Statement on 23rd November, it is imperative that applicants respond quickly to any queries.

DCLG asked if written procedure timeframes could be reduced from 10 days to 5 to help speed up the process which was agreed.

5.2. ESF

M Stafford updated the committee on calls which closed on 19th July. Full applications are due back in early November. It is unlikely that the GFAs will be issued prior to the Autumn Statement. Once the appraisal process is complete, the projects will be submitted to the committee for comments.

The committee were advised that the four Opt In organisations had met with the Managing Authority to ensure a consistent approach to reporting to the committee. A standard process will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

It was suggested that the 3 Opt Ins be invited to attend the next meeting in January, and this was agreed by the committee.

5.3. EAFRD

Louise Maguire advised the committee that any projects in the system would be contracted by the Autumn Statement. The Rural Payments Agency is looking to modify their business process to reduce the amount of time it takes for projects to pass through the approval process. All outline applications will be submitted to the committee, but would only consult at Full if deemed necessary.

It was suggested that if changes had been made to EAFRD projects, they should be submitted to the Lancashire Technical Officers Group where they can review and make recommendations, before they are sent out by written procedure to the committee.

6. Evergreen

Kathryn Molloy was unable to attend to deliver the presentation.

Brian Bailey set the context for the proposed Lancashire Evergreen programme (Urban Development Loan Fund). It was noted that under the previous ERDF programme there had been no Lancashire Evergreen projects.

The committee had a discussion regarding Evergreen funds. It was also noted that due to the number of other loans available at the moment, Evergreen 2 would need a unique selling point. An evaluation of a possible Lancashire project pipeline is in development and will be presented to the committee when complete.

A meeting is taking place on 19th October with DCLG and Regeneris regarding the loan fund. The outcome of this will be fed back at the next committee meeting.

7. AOB

It was highlighted that although government are stating that it is business as usual, the committee felt that it was not because they are unable to publish any new calls.

DCLG advised that if we were able to publish calls following the autumn statement but before the next committee meeting, the calls would be sent to the committee via written procedure to review. There are 7 calls already drafted which need to be reviewed by managing authorities. The calls will be ready to be published once approval has been received.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to government to express that the committee are keen to progress and also to demonstrate that we are in a position to move forward with our plans to launch calls. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting

- 12th January 2017 10:30am – 12:30pm County Hall, Preston

Attendee List

Lancashire ESI Funds Sub-Committee 12/10/2016 meeting

Chair & Deputy Chair:

Name	Sector/Organisation Representing
Dennis Mendoros (Chair)	LEP Board - Private Sector
Anita Williams (Deputy Chair)	DCLG

Sub-Committee Members/Alternates:

Name	Sector/Organisation Representing
Louise Maguire	Rural Payments Agency
Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
Fallon Costello (Alternate)	DWP
Maureen Stafford	DWP
Helen Hart	DWP
Garth Hodgkinson	Voluntary Sector
Cllr Alastair Bradley	Chorley Borough Council
Katherine O'Connor	BIS
Carl Speight (Alternate)	HE FE Sector
Dion Williams (Alternate)	HE Sector
Mick Smith	Environmental Sector
Marie Clayton	DCLG
Lorraine Collings (Alternate)	Blackburn with Darwen Council
Robert Latham (Alternate)	Blackpool Council
Graham Cowley	LEP Board – Private Sector
Amanda Melton	Chair LEP Skills Board

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

Name	Sector/Organisation Representing
Shabana Patel	Lancashire CC
Gill Heron	DCLG
Sean McGrath	Lancashire CC
Andy Walker	Lancashire CC
Neil Roberts	Lancashire CC
Brian Bailey	Blackburn with Darwen Council

Apologies:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Lis Smith	FE Sector
Michele Lawty-Jones	Skills & Employment
Alan Cavill	Blackpool Council
Prof Andrew Atherton	HE Sector
Elizabeth Taylor	Third Sector

Gary Lovatt	LEP Business
Cllr Mohammed Iqbal	Pendle Council
Cllr Phil Riley	Blackburn with Darwen Council
Ann Turner	HE Sector
Michael Damms	LEP Board – Private Sector Project Board