

2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment  
Funds Growth Programme

Call for Proposals  
European Regional Development Fund

Priority Axis 5: Promoting climate change  
adaptation, risk prevention and  
management

<b>Managing Authority:</b>	<b>Department for Communities and Local Government</b>
<b>Fund:</b>	<b>European Regional Development Fund</b>
<b>Priority Axis:</b>	<b>Priority Axis 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</b>
<b>Call Reference:</b>	<b>OC39R16P 0479</b>
<b>Local Enterprise Partnership Area:</b>	<b>York, North Yorkshire and East Riding</b>
<b>LEP Area Indicative Fund Allocation:</b>	<b>£4,991,729</b>
<b>Call Open:</b>	<b>Friday 16 December 2016</b>
<b>Call Closes:</b>	<b>23:59 30 April 2017</b> <b>Review points:</b> <b>23:59 17 February 2017</b>

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# 1. Introduction

The 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds bring the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development together into a single European Union Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme for England supporting the key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, low carbon, skills, employment, and social inclusion.

The Government has confirmed that it will guarantee EU funding for structural and investment fund projects signed before the UK's departure from the EU, even when these projects continue after we have left the EU.

As a result, British businesses and other organisations will have additional certainty over future funding and should continue to apply for EU funding while the UK remains a member of the EU.

Funding for projects will be honoured by the government, if they meet good value for money and are in line with domestic strategic priorities. Each government department will take responsibility for the allocation of money to projects in line with these conditions and the wider rules on public spending. The full detail of the announcement can be found at the following website link: <http://tinyurl.com/h977fw4>

The Funds are managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government for the European Regional Development Fund, Department for Work and Pensions for the European Social Fund and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. These Departments are the Managing Authorities for each Fund. In London, the Greater London Authority acts as an Intermediate Body for the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund programmes. In some other areas, Intermediate Bodies are being designated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions to perform the following tasks:

- Input into project calls in respect of local development needs (with reference to ESI Funds Strategies); and
- Assessment of applications against certain selection criteria in relation to fit with local priorities in respect of the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund.

The Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies work closely with local partners on ESI Funds sub-committees in each Local Enterprise Partnership area. Partners on these sub-committees provide:

- Practical advice and information to the Managing Authorities to assist in the preparation of local plans that contribute towards Operational Programme priorities and targets;
- Local intelligence to the Managing Authorities (or Intermediate Bodies where designated) in the development of project calls that reflect Operational Programme and local development needs as well as match funding opportunities; and
- Advice on local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of the Operational Programme and the local European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy to aid the Managing Authorities' (or Intermediate Bodies where designated) assessments at outline and full application stage.

This call is issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and invites Outline Applications in respect of the European Regional Development Fund for England 2014 to 2020.

## 2. Call Context

On behalf of the national Growth Programme Board, the Department for Communities and Local Government (the Managing Authority) invites applications seeking European Regional Development Fund support under:

### **Priority Axis 5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management**

#### **Investment Priorities:**

- 5b** Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.

The **European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme for England 2014 to 2020** sets out how the European Regional Development Fund will focus on investment to support economic growth and job creation. **Priority Axis 5** of the Operational Programme aims to promote climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management.

Any application for funding will be required to clearly demonstrate that it meets the requirement of, and makes a meaningful contribution to, the delivery of the relevant Priority Axis of the [European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme](#).

In addition, applications will be expected to meet identified local development needs, as expressed in the scope of this call and as set out in the [Local Enterprise Partnership area](#) European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy.

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the detail of the Operational Programme, local European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy and the

relevant documentation listed in sections 5 through to 8 **prior to** submitting an Outline Application.

### 3. Scope of the Call

#### 3.1. Scope

This call invites Outline Applications which support the delivery of Priority Axis 5 of the European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme and respond to the local development need set out in the [Local Enterprise Partnership area](#) European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy.

<p><b>Indicative Fund Allocation:</b></p>	<p>Indicatively, through this call the Managing Authority expects to allocate up to £4,991,729.</p> <p>The indicative funds are split by Local Enterprise Partnership area and Category of region as follows:</p> <p>£2,699,593 More Developed £2,292,136 Transition</p> <p>The Managing Authority reserves the right to invite to full application (and subsequently approve) projects that have a cumulative value that is higher or lower than this indicative allocation, subject to the volume and quality of proposals received. The Managing Authority may also decide to place some projects submitted through this call on a reserve list and invite them to proceed at a later date, subject to the availability of funding.</p> <p>There is no indicative allocation of European Regional Development Fund funding between capital and revenue activity, both capital and revenue is eligible dependent on the nature of activities/Investment Priorities set out in the call.</p>
<p><b>Minimum application level</b></p>	<p>European Regional Development Fund investment is intended to make a significant impact on local growth. Applications are expected to demonstrate appropriate scale and impact. The Managing Authority does not intend to allocate less than £500,000 European Regional Development Fund to any single project.</p>
<p><b>Duration of project activity</b></p>	<p>Projects should plan to deliver activity for a maximum of three years, however the Managing Authority reserves the right to vary the maximum duration, upwards or downwards.</p>

<b>Geographical Scope</b>	The England European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme operates on a National basis. All eligible European Regional Development Fund expenditure must benefit organisations located in England.
<b>Specific call requirements</b>	<p>Applicants should note that the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area includes both More Developed and Transition category of regions, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• York and North Yorkshire (More Developed area)</li> <li>• East Riding (Transition Region area)</li> </ul> <p><b>Good value for money and alignment with domestic strategic priorities</b> will form a key part of the assessment and appraisal of all applications. Proposals should therefore ensure that these two conditions are fully and robustly demonstrated.</p>
<b>Call Deadlines</b>	<p>For this specific call, applications will be assessed in batches at specific review points.</p> <p>The review points for this call are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017</li> </ul> <p>Please note that the entire amount of ERDF funding allocated to this call may be allocated at the first assessment point. If this happens the Managing Authority may choose to close this call or to leave the call open and continue to assess applications, however, these applications will only progress if there is sufficient funding available, in effect projects will be placed on a reserve list.</p> <p>Applications received after the published call close date will not be considered.</p>

### 3.2. Local Development Need

Projects must deliver activity which directly contributes to the objectives of Priority Axis 5 of the Operational Programme, one or more of the relevant Investment Priorities and meet the local development need expressed in the table below.

#### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NEED

## **Local Growth Priorities:**

The risk to businesses, and to economic development, posed by flooding is a significant climate change challenge for the United Kingdom. Flood damages in England have risen by around 60% over the past 25 years and already exceed £1 billion per annum in direct costs.

Locally, flooding in the past decade has had a major economic impact to businesses within the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area and damaged investor confidence.

Parts of the Local Enterprise Partnership area were very severely affected by the major floods of 2007, and the tidal surge event in December 2013 with significant and long lasting consequences. Although difficult to accurately quantify, it is clear that the large-scale damages to stock and loss of revenue for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding businesses ran into many millions of pounds and thousands suffered stress, trauma, mental and physical health problems. In East Riding alone, the floods resulted in an estimated loss or damage to private property and business well in excess of £200 million.

Although a comprehensive report of the overall economic impact is not available, it is estimated that the 2015 Boxing Day floods had a significant impact on key towns and employment areas in York and North Yorkshire with the economic impact amounting to, as a minimum:

- £21.5 million worth of damages to local businesses
- £16.2 million worth of damages to residential properties

The impact of fluvial flooding within towns, cities and key infrastructure sites also brings additional risks and broad ranging implications for communities served by those centres. Damage to local infrastructure amounted to at least £14.2 million during the Boxing Day flooding; however these costs do not include the additional indirect costs that would be incurred by businesses and local communities.

The Local Enterprise Partnership area is vulnerable to fluvial, surface water and tidal flooding. Coastal communities face risks from the sea, rivers and surface water and in Whitby, for example, the loss of the iconic harbour piers, which are at risk of sea flooding and coastal erosion would seriously damage the local economy, with an estimated cost of £128 million.

Such examples serve to demonstrate the substantial economic value of investments in activity to reduce the risk of flooding, safeguard businesses against associated economic impacts, and improve investor confidence.

It is critical therefore that resilience to future flooding is enhanced to create stability in business and growth sectors and unlock opportunities within the Enterprise Zones and other strategic employment sites. Without the creation of a resilient infrastructure, market failure in the property sector will continue and inward investment in business premises, homes and infrastructure will not materialise..

## **Local Priorities:**

Proposals should demonstrate alignment with local development need and priorities.

The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area Strategic Economic Plan includes as a priority ensuring a strong and growing coastal economy (The Yorkshire Coast) through targeted flood prevention measures.

The European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy for the Local Enterprise Partnership area specifically aims to enable growth through better flood and water management and support this area's high quality rural and coastal visitor economy offer through targeted infrastructure investment.

Investment under European Regional Development Fund Priority Axis 5 is being targeted into areas of England where exposure to flood and coastal risk, the impacts of climate change and related constraints on economic growth are most significant. In line with the areas prioritised in the European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme, this call is seeking proposals to address flood and coastal risk in the following geographic areas:

- The Yorkshire Coast
- The River Aire
- The Humber Estuary

Proposals must be able to justify how proposed activities will address flood and coastal risk to businesses in the above priority areas.

Proposals should seek to address the following in these priority areas:

- Invest in the infrastructure to enable new employment and housing land to be made available.
- Maximise the benefits of flood defence schemes by linking them with other development and growth proposals.
- Deliver flood mitigation and resilience with sustainable environmental management, complementing activities called for under the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area Priority Axis 6 Open Call.

Measures may include those outlined at section 3.3 of this Call.

There will be opportunities for innovation associated with activity that builds resilience to climate risks. Construction of flood infrastructure can also support delivery of multiple objectives, for example, contributing towards the area's growth and regeneration priorities and helping to build natural capital. Preference will be given towards using natural approaches to flood risk and water management which also have biodiversity benefits (green and blue infrastructure) as opposed to hard infrastructure, where possible and appropriate.



### 3.3. Operational Programme Investment Priorities

Applications must specify the activities to be delivered and must directly contribute to **one or more** of the following Investment Priorities:

<b>Investment Priority</b>	<b>5b – Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.</b>
<b>Specific Objectives</b>	<p>Enabling and protecting economic development potential through investment in flood and coastal flooding management where there is demonstrable market failure.</p>
<b>Indicative Actions</b>	<p>England has a particular vulnerability to extreme weather, climate change and flood and coastal risk because it has areas of high population and economic density that are exposed to the increasingly dynamic impacts of North Atlantic low pressure systems.</p> <p>The specific objective is to target investment of European Regional Development Fund into measures that safeguard and enable sustainable economic growth in these contexts. It will help ensure that ‘at risk’ communities, businesses and their local economy can adapt. As a result they will be able to contribute to and benefit from sustainable local economic growth</p> <p>European Regional Development Fund, along with European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development where relevant, will be used to complement the UK Government’s Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid and other domestic investment, as per the Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding Policy. This will help to achieve viability for schemes that have a high potential economic development and growth value but that have relatively low eligibility to domestic flood and coastal resilience funding which focuses more on residential properties.</p> <p>Flood mitigation measures will support the protection of major employment areas and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and unlock derelict, underused or neglected land on strategically important sites/areas identified as central to realising growth aspirations. This will include</p>

incorporation of flood risk management and river restoration into the design and lay outs of employment sites and surrounding areas, so that flood risk and surface water management is actively addressed in a sustainable way such as though Green and Blue infrastructure.

Flood mitigation and associated environmental measures will also aim to bring back into use, in a sustainable way (such as through green and blue infrastructure), dormant land identified as strategically important for business growth and employment and in need of remediation.

Investment under this Priority Axis is being targeted into areas of the East coast, North West & South West of England, where exposure to flood and coastal risk, the impacts of climate change and related constraints on economic growth are most significant.

The focus will be on sections of coasts and rivers that are most susceptible to these risks, identified as priorities for sustainable economic growth and where European Regional Development Fund investment can be matched and aligned with other sources to make appropriate risk management actions affordable.

Along the East Coast priority areas will be; the Tees the Team Valleys; the Northumbrian and Yorkshire Coasts; the River Aire and Calder; the Humber Estuary; the Lower Derwent (Derby); the Lincolnshire Coast; and the Norfolk Coast. In the North West the focus will be on addressing coastal and fluvial constraints to towns with growth opportunities in Cumbria and Lancashire. In Cornwall and the South West, it will help to address coastal and flood risks to settlements with the greatest sustainable development potential.

- Actions, specific to the needs and circumstances of the prioritised locations, will be both “hard and soft” and determined via an options appraisal process. The types of actions and their estimated proportions of them can be broken down into three headings: coastal resilience, fluvial risk management and surface water run-off and drainage systems. In many contexts it will require a combination of measures to address an interaction of sources of

risks to deliver the specific objective.

**Coastal resilience**

- managed realignment and mitigation of coastal squeeze
- shoreline re-nourishment and cliff and dune system stabilisation
- harbour, port and waterfront enhanced protection and adaptations. These investments are not linked to transport
- improvements to coastal frontages and seawalls
- strengthening and extending of estuary embankments

**Fluvial risk management**

- onsite or upstream attenuation and slowing the flow measures
- diversion channels
- raising strengthening and/or extending river walls and frontages
- fixed and temporary barriers and gates
- stepped back embankments
- resilience measures for business infrastructure, including for example wet or dry flood-proofing
- river restoration and improved conveyance measures

**Surface water run-off and drainage systems**

- integration, including retrofitting, of surface water and run off management measures into urban and commercial redevelopments
- innovative measures in contexts where flood risk and land management relies on pumping and inter-

	<p>relates with drainage</p> <p>Across all three, there may be actions to promote knowledge transfer and exchange of information relating to adaptations to climate change, risk management and resilience.</p>
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## 4. Required Outputs under this Call

Applicants will need to demonstrate how the eligible activity, funded by the European Regional Development Fund will achieve the ERDF programme-level outputs for Priority Axis 5.

For projects proposing to deliver activity against more than one Investment Priority, the appropriate outputs should be selected. Project will be required to report on, and evidence, the achievement of the outputs separately under each Investment Priority.

For projects coming forward under this call the expected outputs and results are:

<b>Investment Priority 5b</b>	
<b>Output reference</b>	<b>Name</b>
C23	Surface of habitats supported to attain better conservation status
P6	Businesses and properties with reduced flood risk

The Managing Authority expects the level of outputs proposed within outline applications to be realistic and achievable and to deliver good value for money. The application should clearly state the methodology used to determine the levels of outputs proposed.

All operations will be required to report regularly on progress toward achievement of targets. This will need to include both quantitative and qualitative data relevant to the appropriate geographical areas. Applicants will need to explain how they will collect and record this information to maintain a fully evidenced audit trail. It should be noted that if an operation fails to deliver contracted outputs, a performance penalty may apply.

## 5. Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology

There are two stages to the European Regional Development Fund application process:

- (i) Outline Application and, if successful
- (ii) Full Application.

Acceptance of an Outline Application to progress to full application stage does not in any way indicate or constitute an offer of European Regional Development Fund grant.

Applicants must fully complete the [Outline Application](#) which will be assessed by the Managing Authority against all of the national [Selection Criteria](#) except where an Intermediate Body has been designated to assess against some of the selection criteria. Where an Intermediate Body has been designated to undertake delegated tasks, the Intermediate Body will undertake the assessment against the selection criteria in relation to fit with local priorities.

Outline Applications will be assessed in two stages, Gateway assessment and Core assessment.

The Gateway assessment is undertaken by the Managing Authorities and considers:

- applicant eligibility;
- activity and expenditure eligibility; and
- fit with the National Operational Programme and the local development need set out in section 2.

Applications that fail the Gateway assessment undertaken by the Managing Authority will be rejected. Applications which pass the Gateway assessment will then be assessed by the Managing Authority in relation to all Core assessment criteria.

In areas where an Intermediate Body<sup>1</sup> has been designated, the following will apply:

The Intermediate Body will assess the application against the following Core assessment criteria:

- Local Strategic Fit

The Managing Authority will assess the application against the following Core assessment criteria:<sup>2</sup>

- National Strategic Fit

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<sup>1</sup> This process works differently for the Greater London Authority. Please contact the Greater London Authority for further details.

- Value for money
- Management and control
- Deliverability
- Compliance
  - Procurement
  - State Aid
  - Publicity requirements
- Cross cutting themes
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Equal Opportunities

The Intermediate Body will also provide advice to the Managing Authority to assist the Managing Authority to make its assessment against the following Core selection criteria:

- Value for money
- Deliverability

Having assessed projects against these criteria the relevant Local Economic Partnership area European Structural and Investment Funds Sub-Committee will advise the Managing Authority or Intermediate Body as relevant on the contribution to local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of the Operational Programme and local European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy to aid the Managing Authority's assessments (at outline and full application stage).

Having concluded their assessments the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body will prioritise the applications they wish to proceed based on their assessment against their respective selection criteria. Only projects that the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body each agree should proceed, based on their respective core selection criteria, will be invited to submit a full application. Subsequently only those full applications that the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body each agree should proceed, based on their respective selection criteria, will be approved.

Please note that the Managing Authority's decision is final and there are no appeals. If you wish to complain about the calls and application process, please follow the procedure set out at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/complaints-procedure>

Potential applicants / applicants may wish to take advantage of information and support services funded through ERDF Technical Assistance and available to assist the design and development of compliant projects / applications for ERDF. Details of your local Technical Assistance funded project can be found on the [Technical Assistance website page](#).

### Please note:

Actions supported under this Axis will need to comply and deliver aspects of the relevant local flood and coastal risk plan and where relevant the shoreline management plan of the context. Where they are aligned and are integrated with measures being implemented as part of the domestic Government-funded FCRM six year (capital) investment programme they will need to be selected in accordance with FCRM appraisal guidance. This guidance clearly identifies the importance of valuing and preference in favour of approaches which sustain and enhance the natural and built environment, habitat and biodiversity.

Preference will be given towards using natural approaches to flood risk and water management which also have biodiversity benefits (green and blue infrastructure) as opposed to hard infrastructure, where possible and appropriate.

Investments will take account of the UK's National Planning Policy Framework which includes requirements for local planning authorities to "set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure".<sup>3</sup>

Where an investment is planned for a site that is designated as part of the Natura2000 network, or sits in proximity to such a site, reference should be made to the Prioritised Action Framework to ensure any proposed interventions complement the designated site's objectives.

## 6. General Information

### 6.1. National Eligibility Rules

When developing an application, Applicants must refer to the [National Eligibility Rules](#) setting out the requirements of the 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund Programme. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the National Eligibility Rules are adhered to both at application stage and following approval. Failure to do so can lead to financial penalties leading to recovery of up to 100% of the grant value. If in doubt on any of the requirements, Applicants are strongly advised to seek specialist advice.

European Regional Development Fund eligibility rules apply to **all** project spend within the eligible costs, including match funding.

The European Regional Development Fund is governed by European regulations and national rules. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/60777/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60777/2116950.pdf)

documentation, (Section 8 Key Document refers) prior to submitting an Outline Application. If successful at the full application stage, Applicants will enter into [a Funding Agreement](#) and must abide by the standard terms and conditions contained therein. Once a Funding Agreement has been issued it should be signed and returned within 30 days, unless otherwise agreed with the Managing Authority. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to read these terms and conditions to ensure that they are able to enter into such an agreement prior to responding to the call.

## **6.2. Eligible Applicants**

Section 4 of the [National Eligibility Rules](#) sets out who is eligible to apply. Financial Due Diligence checks will be undertaken on non-public sector Applicants successful at the Outline Application stage.

Applicants must be legally constituted at the point of signing a Funding Agreement. If the application is approved the Applicant organisation will enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement and therefore will carry the liability for ensuring that the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement are met.

If there is more than one organisation applying for the funds, a lead organisation must be selected to become the Applicant (and Grant Recipient) with the remaining organisation(s) acting as Delivery Partner(s). In this situation the Applicant would be responsible and liable for the Delivery Partner(s) and ensuring the project is operating compliantly.

During the application process the Managing Authority will consider the Applicant's track record, both positive and negative. If the Applicant has been involved in the delivery of previous European grants and any irregularities have been identified, the Managing Authority will expect to see what steps have been taken to ensure that the risk of further irregularities in the future is mitigated. It is acknowledged that some organisations will be new to European Structural and Investment Funds funding and will not have a track record.

## **6.3. Contribution Rate & Match Funding**

European Regional Development Fund investment must not be used to replace existing funding sources. European Regional Development Fund investment must enable activity to take place that would not otherwise happen or to increase the scope, scale or intensity of activity. The level of European Regional Development Fund awarded will be the minimum in order for the project to proceed

The maximum Contribution Rate is 60% of the total eligible project costs in Transition areas and 50% in More Developed areas, subject to State Aid regulations.



The remaining 40% or more must come from other eligible sources as specified under section 6 of the National Eligibility Rules. During the application process applicants will need to satisfy the Managing Authority that they have, or are able to put in place eligible match funding for the balance of costs. Other European Union funds cannot be used as a source of match funding.

European Regional Development Fund investment is limited by State Aid regulations and where the award of European Regional Development Fund would constitute State Aid the European Regional Development Fund grant rate may fall below the 60% (Transition area) or 50% (More Developed area) maximum.

European Regional Development Fund is paid quarterly in arrears and expenditure must be defrayed prior to the submission of any Grant claims. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate how they are able to cash flow the operation.

#### **6.4. Project Timescales**

European Regional Development Fund funding will normally be approved for three years, however the Managing Authority reserves the right to extend the contract term in exceptional circumstances.

Projects approved through this call will normally be expected to:

- Submit a detailed and complete full application within three months of formal selection at outline stage. Projects which fail to meet this deadline may be deselected,
- Commence delivery (defraying European Regional Development Fund eligible costs) within three months of formal approval. Projects which fail to meet this deadline may be deselected, and
- Be closed by June 2023.

#### **6.5. Capital Projects**

In developing the budget for the Outline Application, applicants seeking European Regional Development Fund to support a capital project should note that:

- new build projects will normally be expected to achieve the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of 'excellent'; however BREEAM 'very good' will be accepted where this is the maximum feasible standard.
- Refurbishment projects will normally be expected to achieve the BREEAM rating of 'Very Good'.
- Infrastructure projects will normally be expected to achieve the Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment rating of 'Very Good'.

## **6.6. Cross Cutting Themes/Horizontal Principles**

All applications selected as a result of this call will be required to demonstrate how the Cross Cutting Themes have been addressed in the project design and development. Cross Cutting Themes for European Regional Development Fund are 'equality and anti-discrimination' and 'sustainable development'. Further information is available in Section 11 of the [European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme](#).

Green Infrastructure projects seeking funding under Priority Axis 5 require both a wider strategic overview to ensure maximum benefits, and a future management plan.

Applications for projects delivering carbon savings will need to include a coherent and transparent methodology for measuring the savings.

## **6.7. Additionality, Duplication and Displacement**

Additionality is a core principle of European Regional Development Funding. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the activity paid for out of European Regional Development Funding adds value to new or existing activity.

European Regional Development Funding cannot support activities that duplicate existing provision/services within the region.

Applications need to identify and evidence how the beneficiaries will use the service and demonstrate that the project does not displace other activity available in the market place.

## **6.8. State Aid & Revenue Generation**

Applicants are required, in the Outline Application, to provide a view on how their proposal complies with State Aid law. Applicants must ensure that projects comply with the law on State Aid. Grant funding to any economic undertaking which is State Aid can only be awarded if it is compatible aid, in that it complies with the terms of a notified scheme under the General Block Exemption Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

Only if this is not possible should Applicants use the De Minimis Regulation or 'no aid'. [Guidance for Grant Recipients](#), explaining more about State Aid, is available; it is important that Applicants take responsibility for understanding the importance of the State Aid rules and securing their full compliance with them throughout the project, if it is selected into the Programme.

The Managing Authority is not able to give legal advice on State Aid. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the operation is State Aid compliant.

## 6.9. Procurement

All costs claimed by the Applicant (Grant Recipient and/or Delivery Partner(s)) must be recovered on an actual cost basis. Other costs must be procured in line with National (including [Public Procurement Regulation 2015](#)) and European Union regulations. Procurement will be subject to audit and verification and any irregularity will result in a financial penalty of up to 100% of the grant paid. Robust and transparent procurement is required to ensure that Grant Recipients:

- Consider value for money;
- Maximise efficient use of public money;
- Maintain competitiveness and fairness across the European Union.

It is **strongly recommended** that Applicants seek and follow legal advice in respect of procurement requirements. Procurement irregularities remain the most substantive cause of error and clawback of grants.

## 7. Support

Please note that this is a competitive call and to preserve impartiality the Managing Authority and, where appropriate, the Intermediate Body are unable to enter into correspondence with applicants over their Outline Application. Details of where guidance can be found are contained throughout this call document. In exceptional circumstances, if there are issues with accessing this guidance, please contact: [YH.ERDFenquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:YH.ERDFenquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

## 8. Key Documents

- European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme;
- Outline Application Form;
- Outline Application Form Guidance;
- Local Enterprise Partnership area's European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy;
- Eligibility Guidance;
- Target Definitions;
- Funding Agreement (Revenue and/or Capital).

## 9. Document Checklist

Incomplete applications will be rejected. Please ensure the following information (documents) are submitted.

Outline Stage:

- Fully completed Outline Application;
- Financial Tables;
- Outputs, Results and Indicators Tables.

## 10. Document Submission

Completed Outline Applications must be submitted via **email** to the address in Section 7.

Outline Applications which are not fully completed will be excluded.

For this call applications will normally be required to **commence delivery/activity within three months** of the award of a Funding Agreement.

Any changes related to the deadline for the submission of the Outline Application form will be notified on the [European Growth Funding](#) website pages.