



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

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

Growth Programme for England

ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

Review of GPB membership and terms of reference

Purpose:

The secretariat will review the Board's membership and terms of reference. This paper invites Board members to suggest objectives and scope for the review; and comment on the proposed governance arrangements, methodology and timescale so that a proposal can be developed for GPB agreement.

Recommendation(s):

That Board members:

- consider the governance arrangements, objectives, scope, methodology and timescale proposed in this paper
- suggest, by **Friday 30 September**, any other considerations that might be factored into a review proposal (to ESIFPMC@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Summary:

In December 2015, the Board committed to review its membership and terms of reference after one year and, again, in 2017.

This paper sets out a framework for a 'light-touch' review.

A review could initiate in December 2016. Findings, including any recommendation(s) that emerge, could be presented to the Board in March 2017.

Introduction

1. The Board (as programme monitoring committee) has regulatory functions set out in Articles 47, 48, 49 and 110 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU No.1303/2013). Membership of the Board is for a three year term.
2. Composition of programme monitoring committees is a matter for EU member states. The Board should reflect the UK Partnership Agreement and include representatives from the ESIF Managing Authorities, intermediate bodies and partner representatives (identified in Article 5 of the Regulation) of competent urban and other public authorities; economic and social partners; and relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination. The Commission participates in the work of the monitoring committee in an advisory capacity.
3. The Board also delivers non-regulatory, strategic functions. It advises ESI Fund Managing Authorities and the separate European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) programme monitoring committees, helping to align all four Funds where possible.
4. The Board's terms of reference were agreed in December 2015. They are published on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/growth-programme-board>

Objectives

5. The review will:
 - a. examine the Board's composition and membership with a view to ensuring it remains relevant, representative and effective
 - b. analyse the Board's terms of reference with a view to ensuring they provide an appropriate operational framework and that gaps, if any are identified, are addressed

Proposed governance arrangements

6. The review will be carried out by the Board secretariat, based in DCLG.
7. The secretariat will report progress to and take direct advice from a Steering Group. The Steering Group will be chaired by a Managing Authority representative, who will provide feedback to the full Board.
8. The Steering Group may include representation from among the Board members, LEP area ESI Funds sub-committees and each of the relevant managing departments (DCLG, Defra, DWP and BEIS).

Proposed methodology

9. As the Board is still at an early stage of operation, a 'light-touch' approach is proposed. The review will focus on sectorial composition of the Board, recruitment of members and identified nominating bodies. Research may be carried out through document and

information gathering, sampling, questionnaire and/or interviews, followed by analysis of collected material.

10. A review report will be cleared by the Steering Group and presented to the Board, including any recommendation(s) and timescales for implementation.

Proposed scope

11. This review will limit itself to examining the Board's settled composition and membership (principal members and official named substitutes, held on record by the secretariat) as at December 2016. Terms of reference subject to analysis will be those dated 17 December 2015 and published on GOV.UK.
12. This review will not, on this occasion, extend to National Sub-Committees (NSC). Although the Board committed to review their (and LEP area ESI Funds sub-committees) terms of reference and membership annually, no NSC has yet been operational for more than seven months.
13. The Partnership Working Review recommended that LEP area ESI Funds sub-committee terms of reference be refined to make clear the role of the local Chair and create the possibility of receiving advice from thematic working groups. In parallel with this review, the secretariat will propose amendments of the LEP area ESI Funds sub-committee terms of reference, to the Steering Group.

Proposed timescale

14. Board members' comments are invited by **Friday 30 September**.
15. Following members' comments, the secretariat will work-up a revised review proposal. This will be presented to the Board on **Tuesday 13 December** for endorsement.
16. Review findings may be presented to the Board at its meeting on **Tuesday 28 March 2017**.

Richard Inman
Secretary

01 September 2016