

**European Union**European Structural
and Investment Funds**European Structural and Investment Funds
2014 - 2020****Growth Programme for England****ESI Funds Growth Programme Board****Summary Report from the National Sub-Committees****Purpose:**

This paper summarises the initial meetings of the National Sub-Committees and lists their membership. It covers:

1. Communications Sub-Committee
2. Equalities & Diversity Sub-Committee
3. Employment, Skills & Social Inclusion Sub-Committee
4. Evaluation Sub-Committee
5. Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee
6. Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee
7. SME Competitiveness Sub-Committee
8. Sustainable Urban Development Sub-Committee
9. Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

The Communications, Performance & Dispute Resolution and SME Competitiveness sub-committees have prepared supplemental descriptions of their remit, in line with Section C of their overarching terms of reference. Those descriptions are presented in this paper, for the Board's agreement.

Recommendations:

That the Growth Programme Board

- notes progress being made to inaugurate all National Sub-Committees; and
- agrees the supplemental description of remit from the Communications (para. 5); Performance & Dispute Resolution (para. 17) and SME Competitiveness (para. 23) sub-committees

Richard Inman

GPB secretariat

2 June 2016

Communications Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Rob Martell (Chair)**
DCLG
- **James Ritchie (Deputy Chair)** DWP
- **Debra Huntington**
BIS
- **Laure Farret**
GLA
- **Margot Tomkinson-Smith**
Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- **Louise Danks**
Cornwall Council
- **Chris McIntyre**
British Chambers of Commerce
- **John Hacking**
Third Sector National Learning Alliance
- **Matt Smart**
Oxford University
- **Bruce Douglas**
Rural Payments Agency
- **Laura Spencer**
Big Lottery

Summary of inaugural meeting

1. The sub-committee met on 16 March 2016. Nine members attended for the full meeting. Membership of this group is made up of communications practitioners. As well as being a productive national sub-committee, it was evident the group can act as a useful network for European programmes communications in England. Discussion covered the expectations and responsibilities of members; the sub-committee's remit; specific communications tasks currently being undertaken by the Managing Authorities, related ESIF communications activities by members plus their respective sectors/networks and future plans.
2. James Ritchie was proposed and accepted as the sub-committee's Deputy Chair. Supplementary terms of reference were approved. An additional point describing the group's remit was recommended for Growth Programme Board approval.

Future work

3. The remit of this sub-committee is broadly to advise the GPB on ERDF and ESF communications related issues; actively support and help to guide the MAs in the delivery of the annual communications activity plans; and contribute to the review and evaluation of the implementation of the 2014-2020 ESIF Communications Strategy. The sub-committee members also have a useful ongoing role to help in the dissemination of ESIF related information and communications across their various sectors and networks. The focus of activity in 2016 is to make good progress in all of the above areas.
4. The sub-committee will remain in contact. The next meeting will take place six weeks before the December Growth Programme Board (i.e. in October, exact date to be confirmed). This meeting will include a review and discussion of activities carried out so far in 2016, and consideration of a draft 2017 communications activity plan to inform its further development and signing off.

Role of the sub-committee (supplementary to the description in the Terms of Reference)

5. **For GPB approval:** The sub-committee will
 - Support/drive the delivery of the Annual Communications Activity Plans

Equalities & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Anne Donkin** (Chair) DWP
 - **Duncan Carnie** DWP
 - **Mark Wright**
Equality and Human Rights Commission
 - **Richard Corfield** DCLG
 - **Rita Chircop**
Greater London Authority
 - **Tamara Flanagan**
New Europeans Association
 - **Nehal Bradley-Depani**
London Voluntary Service Council
 - **Laura-Jane Rawlings**
Youth Employment UK
 - **Anna Taylor**
DWP
 - **Marc Vermyle***
European Commission
 - **Peter Riley**
Manchester Metropolitan University
- *Christian Aagaard will attend subsequent meetings*

Summary of inaugural meeting

6. The sub-committee met on 23 February 2016. It discussed its role of expert analysis, advice and challenge to ESF and ERDF programmes, particularly on ESF because of its greater focus on people. Members noted that the sub-committee was still in the process of securing membership from disability groups and put forward the possibility of membership from faith groups. The over-arching terms of reference set out by the Growth Programme Board were reviewed. It was agreed that no amendments or additions were needed at this point. Members signed the Code of Conduct. A Declarations of Interest register was set up.
7. DWP and DCLG officials gave introductory presentations on ESI Funds. There was discussion about evaluation processes for both ESF and ERDF programmes. Members had an appetite for examples and case studies alongside the figures and to look at the position of people with more than one protected characteristic. The relationship of the Social Value Act to ESIF will be explored, with a report back at the next sub-committee meeting
8. The sub-committee will next meet on 13 July and 1 November 2016.

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Anne Donkin** (Chair)
DWP
- **Becky Brooks**
Employer's Network for Equality and Inclusion
- **Mark Bacon**
Keele University
- **Ted Ryan**
RnR Organisation
- **Ellen Broome**
Family and Childcare Trust
- **Rita Chircop**
GLA
- **Eleanor Dearle**
LGA
- **Ian Dodds**
Cabinet Office
- **John Hacking**
Third Sector National Learning Alliance
- **Ramona Herdman**
The Big Lottery Fund
- **Jane Lavender**
Dept. for Education
- **John Madill**
BIS
- **Tom Mellish**
TUC
- **Hylda Mounsey**
Cornwall Council
- **Ian Oakes**
University of Wolverhampton
- **Chris Ball**
The Age and Employment Network
- **Nick Small**
LEP Network
- **Sarah Tulk**
Skills Funding Agency
- **Marc Vermyle***
European Commission
- **Judith Wright/Sue Johnson**
DWP

**Christian Aagaard will attend subsequent meetings*

Summary of inaugural meeting

9. The sub-committee met on 29 February 2016. Discussion covered the roles, responsibilities and over-arching terms of reference set by the Growth Programme Board. Members agreed that no amendments or additions setting out supplementary working practices were needed at this point. Members signed the Code of Conduct and a Declarations of Interest Register was set up.
10. Membership of the sub-committee was discussed and agreed. Co-Financing Organisations (CFO) should only have Policy representatives as members of the Sub-Committee. Members agreed that the CBI, Coastal Community Teams and British Chamber of Commerce should be considered for inclusion.
11. DWP and DCLG officials gave introductory presentations on ESI Funds. Evolving devolution and the role of the LEP area ESI Funds sub-committees was covered. The need for coherence, shared good practice and acknowledgement of differences or synergies between differing local areas was recognised. The Chair will consider what a legitimate level of scrutiny might be with relation to discussion of individual CFOs.
12. The sub-committee will next meet on 26 July and 10 November 2016.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

- **David Morrall (Chair)**
DCLG
- **Simon Jones (D. Chair)**
DCLG
- **Baljit Gill**
DCLG
- **Anna Taylor**
DWP
- **Hetal Hirani**
Defra
- **James Phipps**
BIS
- **Paul Bailey**
DECC
- **Fay Treloar**
York St John University
- **John Ball**
TUC
- **Jo Banks**
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- **Francis Lee**
LEP Network (more developed)
- **Heather Heward**
LEP Network (transition)
- **John Hacking**
VCO
- **Aloke Siddique**
BIS
- **Peter Johnston**
DCMS
- **Max Nathan**
What Works Centre
- **Phil Smith**
Private sector and small businesses

Inaugural meeting

13. The sub-committee will hold its inaugural meeting on 6 June 2016.

Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • Nick Dexter (Chair)
DCLG | • David Malpass
DCLG | • Anne Donkin
DWP |
| • Simon Jones (D. Chair)
DCLG | • Russell Reefer
LGA | • Tom Mellish
TUC |
| • Mary-Louise Harrison
LEP Network (more developed) | • Keith Harrison
Action with Communities in Rural Kent | • Andy Cole
College of North West London |
| • Debra Huntington
BIS | • Clare Osborne
Defra | |
| • James Newman
LEP Network (transition) | • Anita Prosser
European Funding Network | • Desa Srsen
DG Region (Observer) |
| • Alex Conway
GLA | • Richard Powell
Local Nature Partnerships | • Christian Aagaard
DG Empl (Observer) |
| • David Pratt
Teesside University | • Emily Kent
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | |

Summary of inaugural meeting

14. The sub-committee met on 12 May 2016. The sub-committee discussed its role, remit, terms of reference, risk monitoring and supplementary items for GPB approval. A Declarations of Interest register was set up. Discussion covered the Performance Management Strategy Guidance. Members considered issues of commonality and consistency between Managing Authority dashboards.
15. The ESF Managing Authority explained that LEP area allocations were to be modified to better reflect the needs of local partners, in consultation with the Growth Programme Board. Approval will be sought from the European Commission. Sub-committee members recognised there is underspend within YE1. DWP will seek advice from the European Commission on actions that can be taken.
16. The Managing Authority (MA) explained that initial feedback from local areas was that investments on Broadband Infrastructure (Priority Axis (PA) 2), flood defences (PA5) and Community Led Local Development (PA8) may not meet agreed targets. The MA is continuing to build an evidence base to establish the level of risk and required mitigation.

Role of the sub-committee (supplementary to the description in the Terms of Reference)

17. **For GPB approval:** The sub-committee will:

- Include, within its monitoring and assessment functions, opt-in organisations
- Advise how risks and trends are managed and communicated
- Advise how best practice arising from good performance is communicated to local partners and other stakeholders, ensuring activity is linked to relevant communication plans
- Consider local dispute resolution of performance related issues in accordance with the Performance Management Strategy Guidance

Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Charlotte Heyes (Chair)**
BIS
- **Julia Sweeney**
DCLG
- **Tim Courtney**
BIS
- **Stian Westlake**
NESTA
- **Prof Stephen Roper**
Warwick Business School
- **Prof Roy Sandbach**
Newcastle University
- **Gillian Docherty**
Data Lab
- **Alexandra Jones**
Centre for Cities
- **Prof Joe Sweeney**
Huddersfield University
- **Jane Elliott**
ESRC
- **Prof John Goddard**
Newcastle University

Summary of meetings

18. The sub-committee first met on 15 February 2016. Discussion focussed on the role of the group and the data it would need in order to fulfil that role. A proposal, developing its role and remit, was presented and agreed at the Growth Programme Board on 24 March. The group is now considering how it might help to foster cross-LEP collaboration on innovation activities, in line with the GPB's steer, to ensure optimal use of funding.

Future work

19. The Smart Specialisation Hub is a key feature of support for smart specialisation practice at local level. Its activities include:
- Running five masterclasses across England for Innovate UK family organisations, LEPs, local councils and DCLG local. Further masterclasses are scheduled.
 - Observatory support for use of evidence in decision making. The Hub is an active participant in Placed Based Mapping groups and will be the repository for nationwide data. Synergies between the two approaches are being developed, to move the Hub towards being a repository of open local data.
 - The Hub is developing the analytical framework from which LEPs and consortia can map their comparative advantages. It will analyse Strategic Economic Plans and available Innovation Strategies for their fit with smart specialisation. In addition, the Hub is seeking more data on ESIF interventions, such as ERDF, in support of smart specialisation which will give LEPs a wider view of the national picture.
 - Considerable effort has been made to communicate the smart specialisation message and clarifying the Hub offer to its key customers. This strand also includes the planned development of case studies to showcase good practice.
20. To further develop the Hub, the sub-committee is considering how it can link into the European smart specialisation platform; exploring, in conjunction with the Hub, what good looks like and what works in terms of data collation; and creating a toolkit.

SME Competitiveness Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Jacqui Ward (Chair)
BIS | • Becky Hood
Cornwall Council | • Phil Extance
Aston University |
| • Tim Courtney
BIS | • Corin Crane
LEP Network | • Thomas Parry
Forum of Private Business |
| • David Morrall
DCLG | • Richard Kendall
LEP Network | • John Goodman
Co-operatives UK |
| • Mark Foley
DCLG | • Glen Collins
Assn. of Chartered Certified Accountants | • Sean McKee
London Chamber of Commerce |
| • Clive Lewis
Inst. Chartered Accountants in England & Wales | • Lee Hopley
Engineering Employers' Federation | • Mike Spicer
British Chambers of Commerce |
| • Dawn Whiteley
National Enterprise Network | • Ruth Lowbridge
SFEDI | • Peter O'Connell
Fed'n of Small Businesses |
| • Allie Rennison
Institute of Directors | | |

Summary of inaugural meeting

21. The sub-committee met on 12 April 2016. Discussion covered the rationale and role of sub-committees; terms of reference; committee administration; spending review 2015 outcomes, Ministerial priorities and implications for funding; risks and opportunities for SME competitiveness and future work. It will next meet on 4 July.
22. The group agreed to recommend to the GPB that it share relevant papers of other sub-committees with it; and that the DCLG European Funding Team will provide it with data on the types and amounts of match funding, plus data on where projects are being funded across LEP boundaries; data on the types of applications that are not successful; and data on the size of SMEs involved in the programme. The group will consider what additional information should be requested to support the work of the SME Competitiveness sub-committee and consider how committee members' business networks could be utilised to inform and advise the Sub-committee.

Role of the sub-committee (supplementary to the description in the Terms of Reference)

23. **For GPB approval:** The SME sub-committee will:

- Monitor and assess overall spend and performance on SME competitiveness across the ESI Funds (including financial instruments) in order to advise the Managing Authority on issues and potential solutions.
- Advise the GPB on national and local policies impacting on SMEs or delivery of the SME competitiveness aspects of the ESI Funds Growth Programme. Consider risks and opportunities for the ESI Funds Growth Programme arising from national and local SME competitiveness policies.
- Identify best practice in relation to investment of ESI Funds in SME competitiveness projects.

Sustainable Urban Development Sub-Committee

24. This sub-committee has yet to meet. The secretariat sits in DCLG and is scoping the group's potential membership. The inaugural meeting of the sub-committee is anticipated by the end of June.
25. Currently, the Managing Authority (DCLG) is finalising assessment of the eight SUD strategies moving towards the sign off stage. At the same time it is making good process in terms of the Intermediate Body (IB) governance arrangements.
26. Whilst finalising arrangements for the SUD Strategies, the Managing Authority became increasingly aware that the link between SUD and urban agenda can reinforce the role of SUD in engaging at the EU level through the emerging urban development network. Through this network SUD areas can further benefit through the EU Presidency work that is currently being developed. It was felt it would be a sensible step to bring these areas closer together through the National Sub-Committee.

Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

27. This sub-committee has yet to meet.

28. The Growth Programme Board secretariat is working with colleagues from the ERDF Managing Authority (DCLG), Defra and DECC to scope the group's potential membership and future work programme. Arrangements for the inaugural meeting of the sub-committee are anticipated by the end of June.