



## 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme

# Call for Proposals European Social Fund

## **Priority Axis 1: Inclusive Labour Markets**

| Managing Authority   | Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)  |
|----------------------|---|
| ESI Fund             | European Social Fund  |
| Priority Axis:       | Priority Axis 1 : Inclusive Labour Markets  |
| Investment Priority: | 1.1: Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People.                                   |
| Call Reference:      | Access to Employment in Coventry and Warwickshire – OC06S18P1221                                |
| LEP Area:            | Coventry & Warwickshire   |
| Call Opens:          | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018  |
| Call Closes:         | 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2019  |
| Document Submission: | Completed Full Applications must be submitted to<br>⊠: 2014-2020.esfapplications@dwp.gsi.gov.uk |

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#### 1. Call Context

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

European Structural and Investment Funds are managed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (ERDF), Department for Work and Pensions (ESF) and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (EAFRD). In London, the Greater London Authority acts as an Intermediate Body for the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund programmes. Unless stated otherwise, the term "Managing Authority" will apply to all these organisations. These Departments are the Managing Authorities for each Fund. The Managing Authorities work closely with local partners who 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 in the development of project calls (decided by the Managing Authorities) that reflect Operational Programme and local development needs as well as match funding opportunities;
- Advice on local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of Operational Programmes and the local ESIF Strategy to aid the Managing Authority's assessments at full application stage.

This call is issued by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to commission ESF Funded projects that will support the **Priority Axis 1 of the Operational Programme: Inclusive Labour Markets** and **Investment Priority: 1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People** as set out in the Operational Programme.

All applications will need to be eligible under the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014 to 2020. The <u>ESF Operational Programme</u> is available for applicants to read.

This call for proposal sets out the requirements for any applicants to consider before applying. Applications against this call will be assessed as part of a one stage appraisal process and successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with the DWP. Further information is given in sections 4 to 10.

All ESF applicants will need to be aware of the requirement to collect and report data on all participants as per Annex 1 (see Appendix A). This will be as well as the requirement of reporting on output and result indicators referred to in section 3 of the call for proposal.

#### 1.1 National Context

This priority axis aims to increase participation in the labour market and thereby improve social inclusion and mobility. It will support activities through:

**Investment priority: 1.1** - Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including the long term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility

ESF will not fund activity that duplicates or cuts across national policy on grants and loans for tuition for skills activities. Exemptions to this principle will be considered only where a local specific need and/or market failure has been demonstrated and where the activity falls within the scope of the Operational Programme.

Full details of what can and cannot be supported under this Investment Priority are set out in the Operational Programme. Details of the specific objectives have been reproduced below.

| Specific Objective   | Results that the Member States seek to achieve  |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | with Union support  |  |
| To improve the employability of long-term unemployed people, so that they can compete effectively in the labour market.  | This specific objective is focused on those who are long-term unemployed and who are less likely to move back into work than people who have been unemployed for less time. The additional support from this investment priority will help long-term unemployed people to tackle their barriers to work and move into sustainable employment. The main result target focuses on moving participants into employment (including self-employment) on leaving. There will be a quantified result target set for this result indicator in each category of region.  |  |
| To provide individuals from groups which face particular labour market disadvantage with additional support so that they can compete effectively in the labour market. | This objective is focused on those who are unemployed but have more than one major barrier to progressing into employment (including self-employment) and sustaining employment. This client group will be more challenging to help and will often require intensive ongoing support to address complex barriers, which will be reflected in the targets. Support will be tailored to individual needs. Participants will include individuals who are over 50, lone parents, disabled or have health problems, from ethnic minorities or who lack basic skills. The main result targets focus on moving participants into employment or into education/training or getting them involved in active jobsearch. Output targets will ensure we are reaching appropriate numbers of participants from these groups. |  |
| To encourage inactive people to participate in the labour market and to improve their employability.   | This objective is focused on individuals who are distant from the labour market and who need additional support to give them the skills and/or confidence to enable them to move towards employment (including self-employment). Participants will include individuals who are lone parents, disabled or who have health problems, are over 50 or who are from ethnic minorities. The priority will be on those who are receiving inactive  |  |

benefits. The main result that will be achieved is that inactive participants will engage more in the labour market. A specific output target will ensure we are targeting inactive people, and we have result targets to measure movement into work and increases in activity. To address the basic skills This objective is focused on individuals who lack the basic skills required by employers, such as IT, needs of unemployed and inactive people so that they literacy and numeracy. Participants will have the can compete effectively in opportunity to gain basic skills relevant to labour the labour market. market needs or to enable them to progress towards gaining further skills. The main result will be that those without basic skills will be helped to gain them. This will enable them to play a fuller part in the labour market. There is an output target for participants without basic skills and a result target for participants gaining basic skills. The additional support from this investment priority To provide support for women at a disadvantage in will help more unemployed and inactive women to the labour market, and complete effectively in the labour market. It will be particularly those who are focused on engaging and providing additional currently inactive, to support to women who have barriers to entering the labour market, including language, skills, age and contribute to our efforts to reduce the gender caring responsibilities. Participants could include employment gap. older women wishing to return to work after caring for children, lone parents or women from ethnic minorities who have never worked. The main result that will be achieved is that more participants will be in sustainable employment (including selfemployment) or engaged in active job search on leaving. There is a stretching output target for female participation and a result target for participants with childcare needs receiving childcare support.

#### 1.2 Local Development Need

Projects must deliver activity which directly contributes to the objectives of Priority Axis 1, Investment Priority 1.1 of the Operational Programme, and which meets the **local development need** expressed in the text and table below.

#### Call outline

The UK and Coventry & Warwickshire unemployment rates have decreased significantly on recent years and are now at record lows. However, locally, the claimant count is rising as the area transitions to Universal Credit. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work which can give the impression that different sets of data are giving conflicting information. As at June 2018 there are over 10,000 people claiming out of work benefits in the Coventry &

Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) area. The claimant count is highest in the 25-49 age range in the area, with the over 50's being the next largest group.

Combined with this there is compelling local evidence that there are significant levels of "hidden unemployment" where people, especially from the younger 18-24 year old age range, are choosing not to claim out of work benefits and as a result are reducing their exposure to back to work support provision.

The socio-economic analysis identified that Coventry & Warwickshire has a varied picture of unemployment, with Coventry having the highest unemployment rates (5.2%) followed by Nuneaton & Bedworth (4.4%). The key market failures are around skills gaps (particularly concerning basic employability and technical skills), labour immobility (reflected in geographical discrepancies in employment and the challenges of job density) and inequality (in relation to both marginalised groups and unequal distribution of income - with commuters into some areas having average earnings significantly higher than local residents).

Many communities, both geographical and of interest such as over 50's, care leavers, migrants, disabled people, ex-service personnel, some ethnic minority groups, lone parents and ex-offenders continue to be marginalised and require support to help them gain employment. For example, as seen in other parts of the UK, the unemployment rate for ethnic minorities is higher than the white unemployment rate. Working alongside national employment programmes, but providing more targeted and innovative support for a wider range of people who are workless, is essential for the area's economy.

In common with the UK as a whole the Coventry and Warwickshire area faces the challenge of ensuring sufficient vacancies for jobseekers and responding with sufficient flexibility to employer demand in the local labour markets. In some sectors there is an imbalance in the markets with low or no applicants for vacancies and in others five or more applicants per vacancy. This mismatch needs to be effectively addressed. The CWLEP area also has a high level of people claiming health related benefits with over 28,000 people receiving Employment Support Allowance in June 2018. Therefore, it is vital that this group is supported to engage with labour market activity and prepare for work.

#### **Local priorities**

This Call aims to prioritise tackling inequality in the labour market and will concentrate on inequality for some marginalised groups, geographical discrepancies and those suffering worklessness due to ill health. It will provide additional, innovative and more intensive approaches to engagement, pre-employment training and employment support that encourages participants towards employment. Activity may include locality based delivery, including employability training which moves people into mainstream employment services as well as providing additional and innovative programmes to specific target groups such as disabled people or people with health barriers (including mental health issues), the over 50's, people with caring responsibilities, lone parents, ethnic minorities, ex-service personnel, ex-offenders, care leavers and those from households with inter-generational worklessness.

Unemployment in the CWLEP area affects different groups to different extents. Focusing on those groups who suffer higher than average barriers to the labour market - as described above - activity should focus on:

- Engagement and increased participation
- Tackling barriers to work, including support to progress in work
- Support for self-employment including social enterprise as a route out of worklessness

The overall outcome for this area of work is to move people into employment or an employment focused next step.

Project activity must be accessible across the whole area. Applicants should demonstrate how they will ensure effective coverage and support for people in rural area.

Within the CWLEP area unemployment varies significantly. The following areas have particularly high levels of unemployment and the LEP would expect that a minimum of **50%** of the people engaged in this Priority Axis live in the priority wards listed below.

<u>Coventry Wards</u>: Foleshill, Binley & Willenhall, Longford, Henley, St Michael's, Radford, Upper Stoke, Holbrooks, Lower Stoke, Westwood

<u>Warwickshire Wards: Bar pool, Camp Hill, Kingswood, Abbey, Wem Brook, Newbold and Brownsover, Bede, Crown, Atherstone Central, Poplar, Atherstone South & Mancetter, Rokeby and Overslade, Warwick West, Brunswick, Atherstone North, Attleborough, Exhall, New Bilton, Eastlands/Benn, Arley & Whitacre Heath, Admirals & Cawston/Bilton, Slough, Alcester, Hartshill, Arbury, Stratford Avenue & New Town, Stratford Mount Pleasant</u>

Details of the local ESIF Strategy can be found at <u>Coventry and Warwickshire ESIF</u> <u>Strategy</u>

Applications are encouraged from consortia or other similar types of partnership arrangements. In each such case the application must be submitted by a lead organisation on behalf of the partnership/consortia and the lead applicant must have the financial capacity to meet the required Due Diligence criteria

#### 1.3 Scope of activity

This call invites Full Applications which support the delivery of Priority Axis 1, Investment Priority: 1.1 Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people of the European Social Fund Operational Programme and responds to the local development need set out in the Coventry & Warwicshire Local Enterprise Partnership Area European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy.

This call aims to address the identified shortfalls listed in section 1.2 Local Development Need above.

## 2. Call Requirements

All applications are competitive.

| Indicative Fund         | Indicatively, through this call the Managing Authority   |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Allocation:             | expects to allocate approximately £3,600,000 ESF.  |  |
|                         | The Managing Authority reserves the right to decrease or   |  |
|                         | increase the indicative allocation, or support more or   |  |
|                         | fewer projects subject to the volume and quality of  |  |
|                         | proposals received.  |  |
| Minimum application     | European Social Fund investment is intended to make a  |  |
| level                   | significant impact on local growth. Applications are expected to demonstrate appropriate scale and impact.       |  |
|                         | The Managing Authority does not intend to allocate less  |  |
|                         | than £900,000 of European Social Funding to any  |  |
|                         | single project.  |  |
|                         |  |  |
|                         | Applications requesting an ESF amount below the  |  |
| Direction of project    | 'Minimum Application Level' will be rejected.  |  |
| Duration of project     | Projects should be for a maximum of three years; however the Managing Authority reserves the right to vary       |  |
|                         | the maximum duration in exceptional circumstances.   |  |
| Geographical Scope      | All interventions should be focused on activity and  |  |
| Coograpmon Coope        | beneficiaries within the Coventry & Warwickshire Local   |  |
|                         | Enterprise Partnership area.   |  |
|                         |  |  |
| Specific call           | This is a call for ESF activity.   |  |
| requirements            |  |  |
| Call Deadlines          | For this specific call, applications will be assessed  |  |
|                         | following closure of the call. Applications received after the published call close date will not be considered. |  |
| Application selection   | All applications will be scored in line with the ESF scoring   |  |
| , ppdation doledtion    | criteria, but the MA reserve the right to invite projects to   |  |
|                         | full application stage where they complement other   |  |
|                         | activity or provide niche activity to target groups within the   |  |
|                         | OP.  |  |
| Applicant proposals     | These can only contain activities which are eligible for   |  |
| Elizable metals for all | ESF.   |  |
| Eligible match funding  | Applicants will need to have eligible match funding for the  |  |
|                         | balance of costs, which must be from a source other than the European Union. At Full application stage the       |  |
|                         | applicant will need to provide information to demonstrate  |  |
|                         | that the operation is likely to have the required level of   |  |
|                         | match funding in place at the point of formal approval.  |  |

| Operational completion | Operations must be completed no later than 3 years and     |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | 6 months after the proposed project start date.            |
| Procurement            | All procurement must be undertaken in line with EU         |
|                        | regulations.   |
| State Aid law          | Applicants must demonstrate compliance with State Aid      |
|                        | law.   |
| Audit/ Compliance      | All expenditure and activities will be subject to rigorous |
|                        | audit and non-compliance may lead to financial penalty.    |

ESF cannot be used to duplicate existing activities or activities that do not address market failure. ESF can only be used to achieve additional activity or bring forward activity more quickly. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that proposals are additional to activity that would have occurred anyway or enables activity to be brought forward and delivered more quickly than otherwise would be the case in response to opportunity or demand.

## 3. Deliverables required under this Call:

Applications will be expected to achieve the minimum indicative level of Programme Deliverables by contributing to the following Investment Priority. The definitions of which can be accessed at the <a href="ESF Operational Programme">ESF Operational Programme</a>.

| Investment<br>Priority | 1.1 Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Specific<br>Objectives | To help those who are disadvantaged but still relatively close to the labour market to tackle their barriers to work, and enter and sustain employment.  |  |
| Indicative<br>Actions  | ESF will not support activities that duplicate or replace existing support within national programmes, but may be used to support additional activities or target groups, including provision co-designed with local partners.   |  |
|                        | Examples of actions which may be supported for all unemployed and inactive people include:   |  |
|                        | <ul> <li>additional and innovative approaches to pre-employment<br/>training, to ensure individuals have the core work-related<br/>skills that employers require, including preparation for<br/>apprenticeships;</li> </ul>  |  |
|                        | <ul> <li>support for those who need pre-traineeship and pre Work Programme assistance, to prepare them for the next step.</li> <li>training for those who need to upgrade their skills or learn new skills (including basic skills and English for non-speakers) to compete in the local labour market and adapt to changes in the economy;</li> </ul> |  |
|                        | <ul> <li>helping people access or benefit from apprenticeships,<br/>including support for women to enter non-traditional sectors<br/>which addresses barriers to entry (e.g. construction);</li> </ul>   |  |

- providing access to transport where this is a barrier to taking up a job;
- providing advice, guidance and support by plugging gaps in national provision where appropriate, in order to help people make better informed choices, and in particular to take account of the jobs available in the local area;
- specific careers advice for women, to help them make informed career choices;
- using self-employment as a route out of worklessness, including providing advice and support for self-employment (an attractive option where an individual is struggling to find work with an employer, either because they lack experience or because they face discrimination).

Activities which are not specifically applicable should be removed.

| ID       | Result Indicator  | Minimum Target value for this call |  |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| R1       | Unemployed participants into employment (including self-                      | 22% More Developed                 |  |
|          | employment) on leaving  |                                    |  |
| R2       | Inactive participants into employment, or job search on leaving               | 33% More Developed                 |  |
| R3       | Participants gaining basic skills   | 4% More Developed                  |  |
| R4       | Participants with childcare needs receiving childcare support                 | 36% More Developed                 |  |
| ESF-CR06 | Participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving | 34% More Developed                 |  |

| ID         | Output Indicator  | Total minimum target value for this call | Men<br>minimum<br>target value | Women<br>minimum<br>target value |
|------------|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01         | Participants  | 4465                                     | 2455                           | 2010                             |
| ESF -CO01  | Unemployed,<br>including long-term<br>unemployed                          | 2902                                     | -                              | -                                |
| ESF – CO03 | Inactive  | 1563                                     | -                              | -                                |
| O4         | Participants over 50 years of age   | 938                                      | -                              | -                                |
| O5         | Participants from ethnic minorities                                       | 781                                      | -                              | -                                |
| ESF - CO16 | Participants with disabilities  | 1116                                     | -                              | -                                |
| O6         | Participants without basic skills   | 786                                      |                                |                                  |
| ESF - CO14 | Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children | 536                                      | -                              | -                                |

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how they will achieve the deliverables within their proposal along with any methodology that will be used to record achievement. Applicants will also need to ensure robust systems are in place, and be able to describe them, to capture and record the targets and to report quantitative and qualitative performance across the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP area. All operations will be required to collect data and report progress against the deliverables with each claim. Where an operation underperforms against their deliverables they may be subject to a performance penalty.

There must be a fully evidenced audit trail for all contracted deliverables.

#### 4. General Information

Essential information to support the drafting of an application and delivery of a successful ESF funded project is available at the <u>European Growth Funding</u> website pages.

#### 4.1 Compliance and Eligibility

When developing an application, Applicants should refer to <u>guidance</u> on eligible Applicants, activities and costs. These are for guidance only and Applicants should take their own specialist advice if in doubt. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the rules and guidance are adhered to both at application stage and following approval.

European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) are governed by European regulations and national rules. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant documentation listed in the 'key documents' section prior to submitting an Full application. If successful, Applicants will enter into the standard Funding Agreement and must abide by the standard terms and conditions contained therein. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to read these terms and conditions to ensure that they would be able to enter into such an agreement prior to responding to the call. Once a Funding Agreement has been issued it should be signed and returned within a short timescale.

#### 4.2 Intervention Rate & Match Funding

ESF is funding used where no other funding can be obtained (the funder of last resort) and the maximum ESF intervention rate for the operation is 50%. This means ESF can contribute <u>up to</u> 50% of the total eligible project costs, subject to State Aid regulations. The remaining 50% or more must come from other eligible sources. For all Full applications, the applicant will need to provide information to demonstrate that the operation is likely to have the required level of match funding in place at the point of formal approval.

ESF is not paid in advance and expenditure must be defrayed prior to the submission of any claims. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate how they are able to cash flow the operation.

#### 4.3 Applicants

Applicants must be legally constituted at the point of signing a Funding Agreement, and be able to enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement. The Applicant will be the organisation that, if the application is successful, enters into a contract for ESF and therefore carries the liability for ensuring that the terms of the ESF Funding Agreement are met by them and to all delivery partners. If there is more than one organisation applying for the funds, a lead organisation must be selected to become the Applicant. It is this organisation that carries the responsibility and liability for carrying out a compliant project.

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 with this (these) grant(s) have been identified, the Managing Authority will look into these and expect to see how and what steps have been taken to ensure that these have been addressed to mitigate the risk of further irregularities in the future. It is acknowledged that some organisations will be new to ESIF funding and will not have a track record.

#### 4.4 Cross Cutting Themes

All applications received under this Call should demonstrate how the Cross Cutting Themes have been addressed in the project design and development. Cross cutting themes for ESF are 'gender equality and equal opportunities' and 'sustainable development'.

For ESF, the project applicants will be required to deliver their services in-line with the Public Sector Equality Duty (as defined in the Equality Act 2010). All projects must have a gender and equal opportunities policy and implementation plan which will be submitted at full application stage and in-line with Managing Authority guidance. Project applicants will also be required to answer a number of ESF-specific equality questions which will be set out in both the full application form and the related guidance.

For ESF, all projects will also be required to submit a sustainable development policy and implementation plan (in-line with guidance produced by the Managing Authority).

The ESF programme particularly welcomes projects that have an environmental focus that can meet the strategic fit at local and programme level whilst also adding value by:

- supporting environmental sustainability; and/ or
- complementing the environmental thematic objectives of other programmes such as ERDF; and/or
- using the environment as a resource to help motivate disadvantaged people

Further information is available in the **ESF Operational Programme**.

#### 4.5 State Aid & Revenue Generation

Applicants are required, in the Full 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 or is covered by the De Minimis Regulation. 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.

Where the Applicant does not perceive that there is any State Aid, it should state whether or not it considers Articles 61 and 65(8) of regulation 1303/2013 to apply. This revenue should be taken into account in calculating eligible expenditure. Article 61 refers to monitoring revenues generated after completion of the project, and Article 65(8) how to deal with differences in the forecast and actual revenues at the end of the operation. The details of this will be tested at the full application stage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that: "Save as otherwise provided in the Treaties, any aid granted by a Member State or through state resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, be incompatible with the internal market."

#### 4.6 Funding Agreement

The Funding Agreement is a standard, non-negotiable and legally binding document. Any successful Applicant will be subject to the terms and conditions contained within this agreement. Applicants are strongly advised to seek their own advice to ensure that they would be able to enter into and abide by the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Failure to meet any of the conditions of the agreement or the commitments within the application will result in claw back of funding.

Applicants should be aware that additional provisions and securities may be included within the Funding Agreement to protect the investment. These will be further discussed if relevant following the Full Application stage.

#### 4.7 Procurement

All costs delivered by the Grant Recipient (the applicant) and/or delivery partners must be delivered on an actual cost basis. Other costs must be procured in line with EU regulations. The most common error identified during audit has been failure to comply with relevant procurement regulations and crucially to maintain a full audit trail to prove that they have complied with the relevant regulation. Robust and transparent procurement is required to ensure that Grant Recipients:

- consider value for money;
- maximise efficient use of public money; and
- maintain competitiveness and fairness across the European Union.

It is recommended that applicants seek their own legal advice pertaining to their procurement and requirements to publicise any tendering opportunities.

The Managing Authority is not able to give legal advice on procurement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the project is compliant in this respect.

#### 4.8 Retrospection

There will be no retrospection for applications made against this call.

## 5. Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology

There are is one stage to the ESF application process; Full Application. Applicants must fully complete the Full Application Form (section 9 refers). Guidance is available on the <a href="European Growth Funding">European Growth Funding</a> website pages. Applications will be subject to a Gateway Assessment undertaken by the Managing Authority under the following criteria:

- Applicant eligibility;
- Activity and expenditure eligibility; and
- The fit with the ESF OP and the call.

Proposals that pass the Gateway Assessment will move into the Core Assessment which consists of the following:

- Strategic fit;
- Value for money;
- Management & control;
- Deliverability;
- Procurement / tendering; and
- State Aid compliance.

The Managing Authority will seek advice from partners when considering applications to ensure its assessment is informed by local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of Operational Programmes and the local ESIF Strategy. This will include the relevant LEP Area ESIF Committee and other partners deemed relevant to the application.

The assessment and any prioritisation will be undertaken using only the information supplied as part of the application process. The Managing Authority cannot accept further detail outside this process.

Non-public sector Applicants who are successful at the Full Application stage may be subject to due financial diligence checks by the Managing Authority. Applicants will be required to submit accounts, and to clarify financial or other organisational information. New Applicant organisations may be required to provide details of a guarantor.

There is no appeal process for applicants whose Applications are rejected at Full Application stage or for failing to satisfy the MA's Financial Due Diligence checks.

### 6. Support

Please note that this is a competitive call and to preserve impartiality we are unable to enter into correspondence with applicants over their Full application. Details of where guidance can be found are contained throughout this calls document. In exceptional circumstances, if there are issues with accessing this guidance, please contact:

⊠: <u>esf.2014-2020@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</u>

No applications are to be sent to this email address. Completed Full applications must be sent to the email address provided in Section 9 – Document submission.

### 7. Key Documents

- Full Application Form
- Full Application Form Guidance
- Financial Annex
- Indicator Annex

- Local Enterprise Partnership area's ESIF strategy; and
- National ESF Eligibility Rules.

#### 8. Document Checklist

The assessment will be undertaken on the basis of documentation received at the point of closure of the call. Applicants should provide the following documentation.

#### Full Stage:

- fully completed Full Application
- financial tables (if the application is against more than one Category of Region, a financial table for each Category of Region);
- Outputs, Results and Indicators tables (if the application is against more than one Category of Region, a Outputs, Results and Indicators table for each Category of Region);
- Visual representation of the customer journey is required (this could be a flow chart); and

To enable the Managing Authority to complete the required Financial Due Diligence checks (if private or voluntary and community sector), applicant to provide:

- three years financial accounts
- Proof of existence Certificate of Incorporation, Charities Registration, VAT Registration Certificate or alternate form of incorporation documentation;
- Proof of trading Financial Accounts/Statements for the most recent two years of trading including, as a minimum, Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheets;
- Completed Financial Viability and Risk Assessment Applicant Template (for applications requesting annualised funding of greater than £1m).

Failure to provide the above documentation could result in the application being rejected.

#### 9. Document Submission

Completed Full Applications must be submitted to

#### 10. Timescales

| Launch of Call advertised on GOV.UK.        | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Deadline for submission of Full Application | 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 |

Full Application forms not received by the deadline will not be assessed. Full 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 contract.

Any changes related to the deadline for the submission of the Full Application form will be notified on the <u>European Growth Funding</u> website pages.

## 11. Appendix A – Common output indicators12.

#### Appendix A – extract from Annex 1 of the ESF regulation

Common output and result indicators for ESF investments

(1) Common output indicators for participants

"Participants" refers to persons benefiting directly from an ESF intervention who can be identified and asked for their characteristics, and for whom specific expenditure is earmarked. Other persons shall not be classified as participants. **All data shall be broken down by gender.** 

The common output indicators for participants are:

| unemployed, including long-term unemployed                                |
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| long-term unemployed  |
| inactive  |
| Inactive, not in education or training                                    |
| employed, including self-employed   |
| below 25 years of age   |
| above 54 years of age   |
| above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long-term unemployed, |
| or inactive not in education or training                                  |
| with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)             |
| with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)      |
| with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)                                    |
| participants who live in jobless households                               |
| participants who live in jobless households with dependent children       |
| participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children |

| ethnic minorities                         |
|---|
| Participants with disabilities            |
| other disadvantaged                       |
| homeless or affected by housing exclusion |
| from rural areas                          |

Common immediate result indicators for participants are:

| inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving                     |
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| participants in education/training upon leaving                                 |
| participants gaining a qualification upon leaving                               |
| participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving             |
| disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training,       |
| gaining a qualification, in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving |

Common longer-term result indicators for participants are:

participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving