



European Union

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**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 business at National Sub-Committee meetings held in the last quarter. It lists their current membership and covers:

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

Recommendations:

That the Growth Programme Board notes the report.

Owen Murray
GPB Secretariat
4 December 2018

Communications Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • Rob Martell (Chair)
MHCLG | • Margot Tomkinson-Smith
Thames Valley Berkshire
LEP | • Matt Smart
Oxford University |
| • James Ritchie
(Deputy Chair) DWP | • Matt Silver
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Liz Sheppard
Defra |
| • Richard Davies
BEIS | • Laura Spencer
Big Lottery | • Laure Farret
GLA |
| • John Hacking
Third Sector National
Learning Alliance | • Laura Welham-Halstead
Greater Cambridge &
Greater Peterborough LEP | |

1. The sub-committee last met on 16 October 2018 at GLA offices in London.
2. Main items discussed / presented were around activities delivered so far in 2018, planning for the annual information activity and the drafting of the communications plan for 2019. These items are covered in more detail through a separate agenda item for this meeting.
3. There was also a discussion on future funding communications – there was agreement that the sub-committee stood ready to support the communications function of these funds should it be required.
4. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in March / April 2019 (exact date and venue to be confirmed). The focus will be upcoming communications needs and challenges, delivering the 2019 Activity Plan and reflection on the 2019 partner survey results and it's key recommendations.
5. The Sub-Committee recently lost one of its LEP representatives – contact will be made with the LEP Network to seek support for the sourcing of a new member from this sector.

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Steve Spendlove (Chair)**
DWP
- **Mark Bacon**
Keele University
- **Chris Ball**
Newcastle University
- **Becky Brookes**
Employers' Network for Equality and Inclusion
- **Ellen Broome**
Family and Childcare Trust
- **Rita Chircop**
Greater London Authority
- **Eleanor Dearle**
Local Government Association
- **Gabrielle Melvin**
Office of Civil Society
- **Stacey Sleeman**
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- **Ian Oakes**
University of Wolverhampton
- **Sue Ormiston**
The Big Lottery Fund
- **Nicola Radford**
Coastal Communities Alliance
- **Laura-Jane Rawlings**
Youth Employment UK
- **Joanna Cain**, WEA
- **Nick Small**
LEP Network
- **Hitesh Patel**
Citizens Advice
- **Nick Campbell**
DWP
- **Michelle Thompson**
Department for Education
- **Marc Vermyle**
European Commission
- **Judith Walker**
DWP
- **Iain Wishart**
Education and Skills Funding Agency

1. The Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion sub-committee has not met since the 9 August 2018.
2. This is in line with DWP's prioritisation of N+3 work set out in recent letters from Catherine Blair to GPB members. The sub-committee will resume in early 2019.

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Steve Spendlove**
(Chair)
DWP
- **Tamara Flanagan**
New Europeans
Association
- **Rachel Quinn**
D2N2 Social
Inclusion &
Equalities Advisory
Group
- **Marc Vermyle**
European Commission
- **Nick Campbell**
DWP
- **Lauren Payne**
Equality and Human
Rights Commission
- **Alan Beazley**
Employers' Network for
Equality and Inclusion
- **Sharon Long**
Partnership for
Young London
- **Mark Wright**
Equality and Human
Rights Commission
- **Duncan Carnie**
DWP
- **Helen Millne**
Third Sector
- **Rita Chircop**
Greater London
Authority
- **Peter Riley**
Manchester
Metropolitan
University
- **Richard Corfield**
MHCLG
- **Sue Ormiston**
Big Lottery Fund

1. The Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee last met on 24 May 2018.
2. This is in line with DWP's prioritisation of N+3 work set out in recent letters from Catherine Blair to GPB members. The sub-committee will resume in early 2019.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| • David Morrall (Chair)
MHCLG | • Michele Mazza
BEIS | • Sue Parkinson
LEP Network |
| • Aloke Siddique
BEIS | • John Hacking
VCO | • Francis Lee
LEP Network |
| • Sarah Boyall
MHCLG | • Simon Jones
MHCLG | • Phil Smith
Private Sector and
Small Businesses |
| • Nisha Patel
MHCLG Analyst | • Emily Kent
Cornwall & Isles of
Scilly | • Anthony Mtitimila
Universities |
| • Justin Martin
Defra | • Amy Coleman
Culture | • Mal Nicholls
DWP, ESF Evaluation
Lead |
| • Nick Campbell
DWP | • Marianne Law
BEIS | • Max Nathan
Academic |

1. The sub-committee was last held on the 10 September 2018.
2. The National Evaluators presented on the activity that will be undertaken during the national evaluation. The roles of the ENSC in relation to the national evaluations was determined to be:
 - Providers of general advice and specific information provision
 - Consultees at various phases and strands
 - The review body for evaluation methods and results.
3. Simon Jones presented an update on summative assessments- noting that there had been issues around GDPR, and storage of material on e-claims. Simon will deliver an update at the next ENSC.
4. Simon Jones and Laura Parker-Tong delivered a presentation on the UKSPF monitoring and evaluation framework- including the rationale, the framework principles and the issues that have been raised for discussion in the group.
5. Future meetings will include an update from ESF colleagues on the ESF programme evaluation and a review of the national evaluation project plan.
6. The next ENSC is scheduled for the 6th of February 2019.

Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Zainab Agha (Chair)
MHCLG | • Jackie Tinkler
DWP | • Heather Waddington
Core Cities |
| • David Malpass
MHCLG | • Stuart Scott
GLA | • John Hunt
College |
| • Mary-Louise Harrison
LEP Network (more developed) | • Keith Harrison
Action for Communities in Rural Kent | • Guus Muijzers
DG Regio |
| • Simon Jones
MHCLG | • Justin Martin
Defra | • Aniekan Ekwere
BEIS |
| • David Pratt
Higher Education | • Emily Kent
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • James Newman
LEP Network (transition) |
| • Paul Green
Local Government (LGA) | • Helen Milne
Third Sector | • Carol Botten
Third Sector |
| • Richard Powell
Local Nature Partnerships | | |

1. The sub-committee last met on 15 November 2018.
2. Members recognised the hard work that DWP colleagues had put in to ensure that there was a good chance that N+3 would be met; current forecast indicated that the target would be exceeded by 4%.
3. DWP provided assurances that resources would be diverted back to business as usual activity shortly. In addition, lessons had been learned to ensure that progress towards the 2019 N+3 target would be much smoother.
4. DWP acknowledged that at this stage it is difficult to fully understand the outputs that will be provided by the CFOs but overall, they are confident that Performance Framework targets will be met.
5. Members raised concerns that funding was being tied up in CFOs and is unlikely to be spent plus demand for CFO support in phase 2 of the programme may not be as currently anticipated by DWP. On the former DWP agreed to monitor the situation and ensure that money that wasn't going to be spent was factored into any planning assumptions. DWP acknowledged that if more was going through the direct bidding system as opposed to CFOs this would put additional pressure on existing staff; however, planning is in place to respond to this demand as required.
6. The main ERDF discussion point was regarding the managing of the 6% performance reserve where milestones had not been met. MHCLG explained that GDTs had been instructed to put arrangements in place to ensure that if the performance reserve was lost then the programme would not be subject to over commitments; it was for each GDT head to establish how best to do this. In addition, when we are clear on what the outcome of the performance review will be then LEP areas effected will be consulted as to where they

want to move their funding. As mentioned at previous meetings this funding can only go to priority axes where the milestones have been met.

7. There was also a further discussion on the implementation of the Reserve Funds. The main points raised by the Members were:
 - They sought clarity on the scenario where calls under BaU could still be made in Autumn but also Reserve Fund calls. DWP made clear that funding for those reserve fund calls would only be making funding available that won't be committed through local calls. This would be based on strong local intelligence that would have been built up during the consultation with local partners in early 2019.
 - The Board's view was that we need to spend as much locally as possible but also accept that there is some funding that can't be spent through that route. However, clarity is required on:
 - where the match is going to come from (is there potential for the reserve fund to bring match to the table that it is proving challenging to find locally) ;
 - what the decision-making process is including the role of local partners;
 - the proposed ESF decision-making panel;
 - the role of IBs and SUDs;
 - whether the minimum bid size is going to increase (If it does this will prevent smaller organisations applying); and
 - what will happen in Cornwall as the funding is locked into the area?
 - Lastly, whatever is decided needs to be communicated ASAP so partners can plan accordingly.
8. DWP and MHCLG agreed to reflect on these issues as part of the on-going development work.

Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Paul Drabwell (Chair)**
BEIS
- **Farhana Quasem**
(Secretariat), BEIS
- **Tricia Allen**
MHCLG
- **Nicholas French**
BEIS
- **Prof Stephen Roper**
Warwick Business School
- **Prof Roy Sandbach**
Newcastle University
- **Jen Rae**
NESTA
- **Gillian Docherty**
The Data Lab
- **Prof Joe Sweeney**
Lancaster University
- Melanie Knetsch, ESRC
- **Andrew Carter**
Centre for Cities
- **Prof John Goddard**
Newcastle University
- **Mark Duddridge**
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
LEP

1. The sub-committee last met on 18 April 2018 and a summary of that meeting was provided in the report for the June meeting of the Growth Programme Board. Since this meeting, the lifetime of the Smart Specialisation Hub has been extended until March 2019.
2. The Smart Specialisation Hub held a conference on 29th November 2018 as an opportunity to debate the importance of place based policy in the Science, Research, and Innovation landscape. The conference was well attended by local economic decision makers from across the country. The discussions captured will form the basis for insight reports that will be published in due course.
3. The next meeting of the sub-committee will be held on December 11th 2018, where key policy issues arising from the Smart Specialisation Hub's conference will be further discussed.
4. A new member of the sub-committee from Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP was recruited over the summer to ensure the views of LEPs are represented on the committee.

SME Competiveness Sub-Committee

Membership

- **Ben Pledger (Chair)**
Cities & Local Growth
- **Tim Courtney**
BEIS
- **David Morrall**
MHCLG
- **John Bennett**
MHCLG
- **John Horseman**
MHCLG
- **Joe Manning**
Cities & Local Growth
- **Karen Leigh**
Cities & Local Growth
- **Sean McKee**
London Chamber of Commerce
- **Glenn Collins**
Inst. Chartered Accountants
- **Allie Rennison**
Institute of Directors
- **Dominic Williams**
Fed'n of Small Businesses
- **Thomas Parry**
Forum of Private Business
- **Lee Hopley**
Engineering Employers' Fed
- **Richard Kendall**
Humber LEP
- **Clive Lewis**
Inst. Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
- **John Goodman**
Co-operatives UK
- **Matt Silver**
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- **Dawn Whiteley**
National Enterprise Network
- **Ruth Lowbridge**
Sector Skills for Enterprise
- **Louise Bennett**
Chambers of Commerce
- **Mike Spicer**
Chambers of Commerce

1. The sub-Committee last met on 14 May 2018 and a summary of that meeting was presented in the report for the June meeting of the Growth Programme Board. The date of the next meeting of this sub-committee is to be arranged.

Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| • Patrick Allcorn (Chair)
BEIS | • David Read
MHCLG | • John Osborne
MHCLG |
| • Mark Joslyn
MHCLG | • Ian Whale
MHCLG | • Emma Friend
Defra |
| • Duncan Carnie
DWP | • Graeme Kerr
Natural England | • Richard Powell OBE
Chair, Wild Anglia CIC |
| • Paul Nolan
Mersey Forest | • Carly McLachlan
Tyndall Centre | • Aled Jones
Anglia Ruskin University |
| • Phil Woods
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Chris Saville
Environment Agency | • Phil Larkin
National Trust |
| • Mark Atherton
New Economy,
Manchester | • Paul Bourgeois
Greater Cambridgeshire
& Greater Peterborough
LEP | |
| • Richard Hurst
Durham County Council | • Kenroy Quellenec-Reid
Greater London Authority | |

1. The Sustainable Sub Committee last met on 12 November 2018.
2. Richard Hurst from Durham County Council has joined the Committee.
3. MHCLG provided an overview on progress across priorities, 4, 5 & 6, providing an overview from the papers for each priority.
4. Richard Hurst provided an overview of the Interreg projects Locarbo and Rebus which Durham County Council are engaged in. Rebus is focusing on collaborative work on energy retrofit of public buildings. Locarbo is developing the concept of virtual Power Plants, which means the value of the greenhouse gasses saved/ energy saved through delivering ERDF in PA4 can equated to the greenhouse gases produced by a gas fired power station.
5. Emma Friend provided an update on sustainable activity within the EAFRD programme including a number of case studies of projects supported.
6. Sviatlana Istamianok from BEIS provided an overview of the 5 energy hubs that have been established across the LEP network. The aim of these hubs is to work across several LEP areas to support the development of low carbon energy projects. The NW Energy Hub has applied for ERDF TA to support ERDF projects that have a low carbon energy focus.
7. Mersey Forest provided a presentation on the Northern Forest, which aims to plant 50m trees over the next 25 years across the north of England. The plan is to support health recreation and economic development in urban areas and provide greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Agenda Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • David Morrall (Chair)
MHCLG | • Badder Alfaresi
MHCLG | • Huw Jenkins
Liverpool City Region |
| • Iain Derrick
MHCLG | • Stuart Scott
Greater London Authority | • Robin McDowell
Bristol City Council |
| • Garry White
MHCLG | • Lloyd Broad
Greater Birmingham and Solihull | • Jem Woolley
Nottingham City Council |
| • Sam Lucas
MHCLG | • Felix Kumi-Ampofo
Sheffield City Region | • Alison Gordon
Manchester City Council |
| • Peggy Haywood
MHCLG | • Teresa Kirby
Newcastle City Region | • David Anderson
Scottish Government |
| • Kathryn Dews
MHCLG | • Heather Waddington
Leeds City Region | • Maggie O'Carroll
The Women's Organisation |
| • Glyn Darbyshire Evans
MHCLG | | |

1. The sub-committee last met in January 2018 and a summary of that meeting was provided in the report for the June meeting of the Growth Programme Board
2. All 9 designated IBs have launched calls for projects and they have generally been successful. As at the end of November and following the uplift in the sterling value of the ERDF programme, the position was as follows:
 - **Leeds City Region:** Following the 2017 call, only one of the five applications progressed to full application and is in appraisal. The call was republished and 8 outline applications received, which are in appraisal. Demand exceeds resource availability in one of the three priority axes.
 - **Sheffield:** Call was over-subscribed and outline applications have been assessed. Of the 5 applications received, 3 have been invited to submit a full application. Demand exceeds resource availability.
 - **Liverpool City Region:** Two full applications have been approved, which will utilise the full allocation.
 - **Greater Manchester:** Five outline applications were invited to progress to full application - three were withdrawn and two have been approved. A further call will be launched next year.

- **Greater Birmingham & Solihull:** Projects worth £2 million ERDF are at the full application appraisal stage and £1.1 million at the outline application stage, amounting to 27% of the total allocation. The low take-up is in part due to the SUD strategy expecting projects to have tangible links with the HS2 high speed rail development. It also reflects a problem in attracting good quality outline applications for PA4 and PA6. As a consequence, the strategy has been refocussed geographically and a further call for projects will be launched.
 - **Nottingham and Derby:** Following the first call, 3 full applications are currently in appraisal. The total value of these 3 applications is £9.58, which is 84% of the notional allocation. Consideration will be given at the next SUD Sub-Committee meeting whether to bring forward a project from the reserve list to use the remainder of the PA3 allocation. Getting suitable applications under PA2 and PA4 was proving more problematic and a further call may be needed.
 - **North East:** Currently 32% of the SUD allocation is committed with all projects currently at full application development/appraisal stage. PA4 (low carbon) is at 33% of the available budget whilst PA5 (climate change) is at 29%. The reduction in the amount committed since the last GPB update is due to the late withdrawal of a project worth £6 million ERDF, pending revision, then resubmission. A new call utilising the remaining headroom was published in early September 2018 with a closing date of January 2019.
 - **Bristol:** The last IB to be designated (in February 2018) launched a call on 5 October, utilising the full SUD allocation, with a closing date of the end of November. One outline application under PA3 worth £2 million ERDF has been received. A further call may be needed for PA4.
 - **London:** Currently 80% of London's €204m allocation is committed to live and pipeline projects. The latest calls closed in November and the outline applications are currently being assessed.
3. The MA is currently carrying out the first round of review meetings with the city authorities designated as devolved Intermediate Bodies, to discuss progress in implementing their SUD strategies. Meetings have so far been held with Leeds, Nottingham, Liverpool, Newcastle and Bristol. Meetings will be arranged with Birmingham, Greater Manchester and Sheffield in the near future.
 4. It is anticipated the next meeting of the sub-Committee will be held in January 2019.