



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 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.

Krishma Sawami
GPB Secretariat
10 June 2019

Communications Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| • Rob Martell (Chair)
MHCLG | • Karen Clarke
SEMLEP | • Matt Smart
Oxford University |
| • James Ritchie
(Deputy Chair) DWP | • Aurore Parkin
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Mark Herbert
DEFRA |
| • Richard Davies
BEIS | • Simon Eleftheropoulos-Weatherburn
Big Lottery | |
| • John Hacking
Third Sector National Learning Alliance | • Laure Farret
GLA | |

1. The Communications Sub-Committee last met on 30 April at GLA offices in London.
2. Main items discussed included the results of the partner communications survey (including key recommendations and resulting actions) and the ongoing / future delivery of the 2019 Communications Activity Plan.
3. The latest situation around communications for the ERDF and ESF Programmes, in the context of Brexit, was also discussed. A special telekit was held in late March where the current situation and future communications considerations were set out / discussed. A further additional telekit could be held in the early Autumn should further discussions between this group be felt to be required at that time.
4. It was agreed that the Annual Information Activity, again set to consist of a case study booklet and supporting social media promotion, which has typically been delivered in early November, will be brought forward this year by around a month to early October.
5. Due to recent changes in roles of a couple of members who have left the sub-committee as a result, there have been a few new members appointed to the group. There is still a vacancy for a LEP representative which the Chair is actively trying to fill.
6. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in October – exact date and venue to be confirmed over the coming weeks.

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 last met on 12 March 2019.
2. Steve Spendlove acknowledged that there had been a suspension in the meetings, but that the pause had been for sound operational reasons and resulted in ESFD achieving their N+3 target. Steve confirmed ESFD was undertaking a lessons learned exercise to ensure the situation is not repeated in future years. This on-going piece of work will consider systems and processes and how grant recipient claim profiles can be better managed.
3. Steve Spendlove provided a progress update on the ESF 2014-2020 programme. This included an update on the current Call timetable and the minimum Call and application values which were implemented in October 2018. Members were keen to understand more about how a Consortia approach might work – a bi-lateral call with members to discuss in more detail is scheduled for 12 June.
4. Duncan Carnie from ESFD's Policy and Communications team gave an update on Cross Cutting Themes advising members about the work he's doing around Equality targets and the design for new MI tables saying that once populated they will give details of 'actuals' monitoring data in relation to outputs and results. The information generated will not only help the sub-committee understand the progress that is being made in helping different target groups, but it should also inform the strategic steer for

the use of the ESF Reserve Fund, especially where there may be any shortfalls against equality targets.

5. Duncan informed members that the MA aims to review and provide a brief update to the original Equality Survey – formerly the ‘equality impact analysis’ that was undertaken before the ESF OP was agreed.
6. Steve updated members on the progress at that point in developing the ESF Reserve Fund.
7. The meeting finished with an open forum seeking members’ views on potential future priorities for the sub-committee to focus on.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2019.

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee last met on 26 February 2019 and will next meet on 17 July 2019.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • David Morrall
Chair, MHCLG | • Simon Jones
MHCLG | • Zainab Agha
MHCLG |
| • Josh Clarke
MHCLG | • Stuart Roddam
BEIS | • Sarah Haley
DEFRA |
| • Yi Zhang
BEIS | • Derek Egan
DEFRA | • Nicholas Campbell
DWP |
| • Justin Martin
DEFRA | • Anthony Mtitimila
Liverpool University | • Konstantina Dimou
DCMS |
| • Anne Lythgoe
Social Audit Network | • Max Nathan
LSE | • Lee Humphreys
Cornwall Council |
| • Sue Parkinson
North East LEP | • Marc Vermyle
EC | • Phil Smith
Business West |

1. The Evaluation Sub-committee met on 28 May 2019.
2. Hatch Regeneris gave an overview on the initial findings of the Process Evaluation. This led to conversations about the role of local ESIF sub-committees, how Monitoring Information was being affected by issues with ECLAIMs, and about the low number of projects seeking advice from Technical Assistance.
3. Nick Campbell gave an update on ESF Programme Evaluation. This led to discussions about whether a national ESF evaluation was done for the previous programme, what evaluation work Defra is doing on EAFRD, and how the timelines for ERDF, ESF and EAFRD evaluation milestones fit together. These all led to actions that will be covered in the next board.
4. Simon Jones gave a brief update on Summative Assessment work, though a more comprehensive update will follow at the next board meeting.
5. The next ENSC has not yet been scheduled but as with previous meetings this will be aligned with key activity on the ERDF national evaluation.

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 | • Jo Lappin
LEP Network |
| • 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 Ownsworth
Third Sector |
| • Richard Powell
Local Nature Partnerships | • Richard Davies
BEIS | • Pernille Kousgaard
MCA |
| • Sylvain Alem
MHCLG | | |

1. The Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met on 14 May 2019.
2. The main ESF performance discussion was around calls as members were concerned that setting the minimum size of a project at 25% of the call value was impacting the ability of projects to come forward as they are unable to find the required match. In addition, members also raised that mismatch between the programme targets and the local reality and priorities was slowing down investment. DWP answered that they were aware of this and that they had engaged with local partners to tailor the calls to local priorities as much as the EU Regulations allows.
3. Members raised concerns that reporting from the existing CFO programme was irregular. DWP agreed to check that MI is sent on a regular basis and to review the distribution list.
4. The main ERDF performance discussion was around the Performance Review and how the removal of the 6% Performance Reserve in PAs4-6 could impact on local pipelines where good projects are ready to go. Members asked whether there was any possibility for the Commission to account for the delivery issues in these PAs and not remove the 6%. MHCLG answered that unfortunately the EU Regulations were clear and there was no scope for flexibility.
5. Finally, there was a further discussion on the implementation of the Reserve Funds where MHCLG set out thinking on the ERDF Reserve Fund First. The main points arising from this discussion were:

- Members highlighted that there needs to be a communication plan to prepare the market for the Reserve Fund priorities. MHCLG agreed and answered that accordingly communication will be issued in due time.
 - Members were concerned about how FOREX variation would impact the programme. MHCLG replied that the FOREX position will be reviewed in the Autumn and that the Reserve Fund was being put in place to ensure that the impact on commitments made through local driven Calls would be minimal.
6. The main ESF Reserve Fund discussion was around National Calls and co-funding calls as Members asked DWP to further develop the thinking on these approaches.

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 11 December 2018 and has not met since, the next meeting will be arranged soon.

SME Competitiveness 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 have not held a meeting since 14 May 2018 however, it is anticipated a meeting will take place in the coming month.

Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Allcorn
(Chair)
BEIS • Mark Joslyn
MHCLG • Duncan Carnie
DWP • Paul Nolan
Mersey Forest • Phil Woods
Cornwall & Isles
of Scilly • Mark Atherton
New Economy,
Manchester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Hurst
Durham County
Council • David Read
MHCLG • Ian Whale
MHCLG • Graeme Kerr
Natural England • Carly McLachlan
Tyndall Centre • Chris Saville
Environment
Agency • Paul Bourgeois
Greater
Cambridgeshire & | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater
Peterborough LEP • John Osborne
MHCLG • Emma Friend
Defra • Richard Powell
OBE
Chair, Wild Anglia
CIC • Aled Jones
Anglia Ruskin
University • Phil Larkin
National Trust |
|--|---|---|

1. The committee has not met since 12 November 2018; however, discussions are being held for when the next meeting will take place.

Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Agenda Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • David Morrall (Chair)
MHCLG | • Heather Waddington
Leeds City Region | • 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 |
| • Glyn Darbyshire Evans
MHCLG | | • Alison Gordon
Manchester City Council |
| • Sam Lucas
MHCLG | • Felix Kumi-Ampofo
Sheffield City Region | • Maggie O'Carroll
The Women's Organisation |
| • Peggy Haywood
MHCLG | • Teresa Kirby
Newcastle City Region | • David Anderson
Scottish Government |

1. The sub-committee last met on 28 March 2019 and reviewed progress in implementing the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) programme across the country. It also discussed the wider EU urban agenda, the implications of a deal or no deal Brexit and received an update on domestic urban policy from the Cities and Local Growth team.
2. The 9 designated Intermediate Bodies reported to the Sub-Committee a mixed level of progress in implementing their SUD strategies. The position for each strategy was as follows:
 - **North East.** Two calls have been held so far. Three applications have been awarded grant funding agreements already, and two others are at full application stage and in the final stage of appraisal. All five projects, and the two outline applications which have just been assessed would use up 58% of the total allocation. Following the late withdrawal of a project worth £6m ERDF at the end of last year, the NE SUD programme currently has £7m and £2m respectively left in PAs 4 and 5, out of the £18.3m and £3m total SUD allocation following the sterling uplift last autumn and will shortly be issuing a further call. One disappointing aspect is that only local authorities had applied so far and one private sector provider, with little interest from universities.
 - **West Yorkshire CA.** Three calls have been held so far. Only one of the five outline applications received after the first call had proceeded to full approval, worth £0.7m ERDF. For round 2 they held a workshop, together with the GDT, and this generated eight applications, with five being selected and which are currently going through full appraisal. A further round 3 Call resulted in one further application, which is now being assessed at outline stage. They will be holding a further workshop in May to tie in with the fourth call due to be published in early April. [NB The call was published on 8 April.]

- **Greater Manchester CA.** After an initial lack of engagement with potential applicants, two good quality projects have been approved, leaving £7m (under the previous exchange rate) to be committed. They have three calls about to be issued which should use up the full allocation. There have been no multi-PA projects so far.
- **Sheffield CR.** One call had been held, with 3 of the 4 outline applications progressing to full approval, using up 95% of the allocation. The GFAs should be issued shortly. The process has been slightly delayed by the necessity for the IB board to endorse the projects, and it meets quarterly although written procedures are used.
- **Nottingham CC.** One call has been held, generating 3 full applications which will use up £8m of the total £11m ERDF. They have a call currently open which they hope will use up the remaining £3m. Both calls require projects to cover at least two PAs.
- **Birmingham CC.** The strategy is built around the development of HS2 and environmental improvements at three nodes on the route, so its implementation has been held up due to delays in the development of HS2. They have revised the strategy to widen the area covered and now have a pipeline of 20 projects, including three at full application stage, so are hopeful of fully committing the programme.
- **London.** The London ERDF programme is 95% committed, including projects in the pipeline, and more applications are expected, so they expect to fully commit the programme. PAs 1 and 3 are fully committed, so they are currently focussing on PAs 2 and 4. All projects approved have been single PA.

Liverpool CR and Bristol CC were unable to attend the meeting to give a verbal update on their strategies. The update given to the Growth Programme Board in March was as follows: -

- ***Liverpool City Region:*** *Two full applications have been approved, and the grant funding agreements issued, which utilises the full allocation.*
- ***Bristol:*** *The first call was launched 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 was received. This application is currently being assessed and is due to be presented to the local SUD Sub-Committee on 13 March. A further call for PA4 will be launched within the next couple of months.*

3.

3.4. 3. The MA has been 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, Bristol and Greater Manchester. Meetings with Birmingham and Sheffield have been arranged for June and July.

4.5. The next meeting of the sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled.