



Item 6: National Sub-Committee Report

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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 September 2019

Communications Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The Communications Sub-Committee last met on 30 April. The next meeting will be held early October.

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| • Steve Spendlove
(Chair)
DWP | • Gabrielle Melvin
Office for Civil Society | • Nick Small
LEP Network |
| • Dr. Emily
Newcastle University | • Stacey Sleeman
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Hitesh Patel
Citizens Advice |
| • Chris Ball
Newcastle University | • Ian Oakes
University of
Wolverhampton | • Nick Campbell
DWP |
| • Catherine Crocker
Greater London Authority | • Sue Ormiston
The Big Lottery Fund | • Zahra He-Li
Department for Education |
| • Eleanor Dearle
Local Government
Association | • Nicola Radford
Coastal Communities
Alliance | • Marc Vermyle
European Commission |
| • Joanna Cain
WEA | • Laura-Jane Rawlings
Youth Employment UK | • Judith Walker
DWP |
| | | • Iain Wishart
Education and Skills
Funding Agency |

1. The Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee last met on 25 June 2019.
2. Steve Spendlove set out the current Programme position: ESF commitment is £1.96 billion, 64.5% of the total ESF allocation. There are currently 32 ESF live calls on GOV.UK totalling £109,645,665. The Calls timetable to the end of December contains calls to the total value of £276,606,114. Assuming all the calls realise their full value and considering other know pipeline, the programme commitment would rise to £2.83 billion, 92% of allocation.
3. Nick Campbell (ESF Evaluation Lead) presented a previously circulated paper giving an update on the ESF Evaluation Programme.
4. Steve updated members with a progress update on the ESF Reserve Fund, including the approvals given by Growth Programme Board at 18 June meeting.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 September 2019.

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Spendlove
(Chair)
DWP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamara Flanagan
New Europeans
Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Quinn
D2N2 Social Inclusion &
Equalities Advisory Group |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Beazley
Employers' Network for
Equality and Inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Campbell
DWP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Payne
Equality and Human Rights
Commission |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Carnie
DWP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Long
Partnership for Young
London | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Vermyle
European Commission |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Crocker
Greater London Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Millne
Third Sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Ormiston
The National Community
Lottery Fund |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Corfield
MHCLG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Riley
Manchester Metropolitan
University | |

1. Steve Spendlove set out the current Programme position - ESF commitment is £1.96 billion, 64.5% of the total ESF allocation. There are currently 32 ESF live calls on GOV.UK totalling £109,645,665. The Calls timetable to the end of December contains calls to the total value of £276,606,114. Assuming all the calls realise their full value and taking into account all other know pipeline, the programme commitment would rise to £2.83 billion, 92% of allocation.
2. William Hannam (MHCLG) provided members with an update on the government's commitment to investment in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as follows:
 - Lord Bourne, Minister for Faith, recently announced that MHCLG will lead development of a cross-government strategy to improve outcomes for GRT communities.
 - The announcement followed the publication of the Women and Equalities Committee's report into GRT inequalities on 5th April.
 - MHCLG have provided additional resource and established a new GRT Policy and Strategy team.
 - MHCLG are looking to engage with officials from across government and would like to work more closely with DWP than previously. Employment is one of the key areas where GRT communities face considerable inequalities.
 - MHCLG have funded some community projects in the past but these have been very small scale.
 - MHCLG would be interested to learn more about additional avenues of funding available to stakeholders.

3. Duncan Carnie reported that interested members had met in a sub-group on 8 May to discuss the issue of recording project performance in relation to supporting transgender people. Concerns had been expressed about recording requirements for ESF participants who are transitioning from one gender to another and in particular where existing evidence refers to the individual's former gender identity. This work is progressing.
4. Steve Spendlove provided members with a progress update on the ESF Reserve Fund, including the approvals given by Growth Programme Board at 18 June meeting.
5. The next meeting is expected to take place on 22 October 2019.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The Evaluation Sub-committee last met on 28 May 2019 and has not met since.

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 28 August 2019.
2. The main ESF programme discussion was around MI data and the timeline to the Reserve Fund. Following the meeting DWP confirmed that the data presented was accurate at 1 August but had not reflected more recent changes during the month itself. On the Reserve Fund timetable, it was clarified that the ESF Fund operated in a different way to ERDF and the deadline for moving funding into the Reserve Fund and perhaps this comparison was causing confusion. It was agreed though that DWP would clarify the process. DWP also agreed to circulate up to date data in 2-4 weeks including call values.
3. The main ERDF performance discussion was around the opportunity to undertake project extension and or “swap” allocations with other LEP areas prior to funding being moved to the Reserve Fund. MHCLG clarified that the process for project extensions was through calls; however, there would be scope within a LEP area portfolio to recycle funds decommitted to existing good performing projects. Regarding “swaps”, MHCLG answered that the possibility had been opened for a long time there was still scope to undertake them until the Reserve Fund was launched.
4. Members asked to clarify the MAs position on over-programming as data presented seem to imply that this was allowed. The MAs clarified that there was no over-programming policy and that data presented represented pipeline without attrition, commitments could not be made that exceeded a LEP areas allocation.
5. The main ERDF Reserve Fund discussion was around the Comms strategy and prioritisation. Members suggested that Reserve Fund comms with external stakeholders

should be low key until the June calls have closed at the end of September. MHCLG answered that this will be taken into consideration. Members sought clarification regarding what a no-deal exit would mean for the programme. MHCLG clarified the guarantee policy and explained that the MA was exploring the scope to improve programme flexibilities and efficiencies in the event of a no-deal; however, the rules governing the Guarantee currently severally limited that scope. On prioritisation Members asked about the decision-making process and pan-LEP activity facilitation. MHCLG re-affirmed that IBs, GLA, PDR and GPB would inform the decision process to inform the MA's final decisions. On pan-LEP facilitation, MHCLG answered that this would be driven locally by Relationship Managers and that the MA would consider pan-LEP areas projects as one of several priorities.

6. The Monitoring and Evaluation discussion was postponed to the next meeting. Members asked for information on closed projects to be presented.

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.

SME Competitiveness Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The sub-committee have not held a meeting since 14 May 2018.

Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

Membership

- **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
- **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 & 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. The next meeting is on the 17 October 2019.

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 a summary of the discussions was given in the update for the June 2019 GPB meeting.
2. The current position in implementing each of the nine SUD strategies is as follows:
 - **North East.** Three calls have been held so far, with a fourth call currently live and due to close end September 2019. Four projects have been awarded grant funding agreements, one is at contracting stage and two are at outline application stage currently under assessment. The combined ERDF value of the seven projects represents 83% of the total NE SUD allocation. Demand for the remaining headroom of c£3.6m (c£2.2m PA 5 and c£1.4m PA4) will be tested as part of the current open call.
 - **West Yorkshire CA.** Five calls have been published to date. Only one of the five outline applications received in response to the first call for proposals has progressed to full approval and is now contracted, c £0.7m ERDF. Eight applications were received in response to a second call, four are at full application stage and are in appraisal. One application was received in response to a third call, which is developing a full application. Two applications were received in response to a fourth call, the applications are at outline stage in appraisal. A fifth call for the remaining allocation of £6.8m is open, call closes 31st October 2019.
 - **Greater Manchester CA.** The latest call closed in June with one outline application progressing to full appraisal. Three further calls were launched in June, which will use up the remaining £7m allocation. There have been no multi-PA projects so far.

- **Sheffield CR.** One call has been published and is now closed. Four applications were received of which three have been contracted representing 95% of the allocation. The remaining allocation of c£440K may be absorbed through a project change request. No further calls will be published.
- **Nottingham CC.** Two calls have been held. From the first call, one project, Nottingham Trent University's Enterprise and Innovation Centre has been contracted (£2.8m). A further 2 projects from this call, totalling £5.48m, are at full appraisal stage. The second call closed at the end of April. Two applications seeking £3.4m were received. One of these was rejected, with the second totalling £1.96m being invited to full stage. Currently the balance remaining is £1,093,890 of which £411,634 is PA2, £275,843 is PA3, and £406,413 is PA4 although the split of funding between the priority axes may change subject to the outcome of the two appraisals in train. A further call is planned for the autumn when the results of the full appraisals are known. Previous calls have had a requirement for projects to be multi priority axis. To improve uptake, this requirement will be removed from the autumn call. In previous calls, there has been excess demand under Priority Axis 3, whilst at the same time significant challenges in deploying priority axis 2 and 4. This is due to the strategy's focus on incubators which present limited opportunities for eligible Priority Axis 2 and 4 spend. To better match available finance with demand, the SUD Intermediary Body has asked D2N2 sub-committee if they would be amenable to swapping £1m PA3 money from the main allocation, with £1m Priority Axis 2/Priority Axis 4 funding from the SUD allocation. The D2N2 Sub-committee will be deciding on this request at the end of the year when the outcome from the last LEP level call is known
- **Birmingham CC.** The strategy is built around the development of HS2 and environmental improvements at three nodes on the route. Its implementation was initially held up by delays in the development of HS2, which led to a lower than hoped for response to the first call. Revisions to the SUD strategy widened the area covered, which resulted in an improved the response to the second call. Currently there are seven applications in the pipeline. Three full applications have been received and are currently being appraised and hopefully approved in the near future. A further four outline applications have been approved and invited to submit a full application. These are due for submission at the end of October 2019. The two calls published to date covered Priority Axes 4 and 6. The current sterling value of the SUD allocation is £11.743m (PA4 £7.316m; PA6 £4.427m). The PA6 allocation is fully committed. Of the PA4 allocation, £1.812m remains to be allocated. A further call is expected later in 2019.
- **London.** The London ERDF programme is 89% committed, including projects in the pipeline. Further applications – for both new projects and project continuations - are expected in September following closure of the June 2019 calls which cover Priority Axes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

- **Liverpool City Region:** Two full applications have been approved, and the grant funding agreements issued, which utilises the full allocation.
 - **Bristol CC:** 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 was assessed and presented to the local SUD Sub-Committee on 13 March. A Full Application is due to be submitted at the end of August. A further call for PA4/PA3 utilising the remaining allocation was launched on June 30th and is live in the current call window with a closing date of 30th September.
3. The MA has completed the first round of review meetings with the city authorities designated as devolved Intermediate Bodies, to discuss progress in implementing their SUD strategies.
 4. The SUD process has the flexibility to allow Calls for Applications that are outside the mainstream process in response to local need. The MA has told the SUD Intermediate Bodies that where there is evidence of local demand and uncommitted resource, SUD areas should be permitted to launch new SUD calls up to 31 January 2020. After this date, in view of the need to meet programme spend and performance framework targets and commit all available funding, SUD calls will no longer be permitted.
 5. The next meeting of the sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled.