



## **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**  
**18 December 2019**

## Communications Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. The Communications Sub-Committee last met on 8 October in the MHCLG offices in Birmingham.
2. Main items discussed included the ongoing delivery of the 2019 Communications Activity Plan and a specific discussion around the Annual Information Activity which had commenced that week with the publication of the 2019 ERDF and ESF England case study booklets
3. The positive results of the England ERDF Environment Month (June) and National Inclusion Week (23-27 September) campaigns were reviewed.
4. The latest situation around communications for the ERDF and ESF Programmes, in the context of Brexit, was also discussed.
5. The development of the Communications Annual Activity Plan for 2020 was raised. A final draft was to be shared with sub-committee members for review in November.
6. The next meeting will be held April 2020 (exact date and venue tbc). A further additional telekit could be held in the early months of 2020 should further discussions between this group be felt to be required at that time.

## Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. The Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee last met on 25 June 2019
2. The meeting scheduled for 10 September did not take place. The meeting has been postponed to 19 December due to purdah.

## Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. The Equality and Diversity Sub-Committee met on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019.
2. The MA presented and received Sub-Committee approval to the draft Equality Mainstreaming Report and the "hints and tips" product relating to record keeping of trans-gender participants.
3. The MA also updated members on the work with Home Office policy colleagues to develop guidance for ESF providers on how they can make use of the new 'Right to work in UK' online checking system. This checking system is primarily aimed at employers but will be of use to ESF beneficiary organisations checking basic eligibility of certain participants, for example, third country nationals. The guidance was published on GOV.UK in October.
4. Members discussed issues surrounding equality data and reporting, including the layers of detail GPB are seeking. A sub-group is being established to discuss and review what is possible.
5. The next meeting is yet to be decided.

## Evaluation Sub-Committee

### Membership

- **David Morrall**  
Chair, 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.
2. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 2 March 2020.

## Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

### Membership

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| • <b>Zainab Agha (Chair)</b><br>MHCLG                         | • <b>Jackie Tinkler</b><br>DWP                                  | • <b>Heather Waddington</b><br>Core Cities        |
| • <b>David Malpass</b><br>MHCLG                               | • <b>Stuart Scott</b><br>GLA                                    | • <b>John Hunt</b><br>College                     |
| • <b>Mary-Louise Harrison</b><br>LEP Network (more developed) | • <b>Keith Harrison</b><br>Action for Communities in Rural Kent | • <b>Guus Muijzers</b><br>DG Regio                |
| • <b>Simon Jones</b><br>MHCLG                                 | • <b>Justin Martin</b><br>DEFRA                                 | • <b>Jo Lappin</b><br>LEP Network                 |
| • <b>David Pratt</b><br>Higher Education                      | • <b>Emily Kent</b><br>Cornwall & Isles of Scilly               | • <b>James Newman</b><br>LEP Network (transition) |
| • <b>Paul Green</b><br>Local Government (LGA)                 | • <b>Helen Milne</b><br>Third Sector                            | • <b>Carol Ownsworth</b><br>Third Sector          |
| • <b>Richard Powell</b><br>Local Nature Partnerships          | • <b>Richard Davies</b><br>BEIS                                 | • <b>Pernille Kousgaard</b><br>MCA                |
| • <b>Phillip Woods</b><br>IB network                          | • <b>Sylvain Alem</b><br>MHCLG                                  |   |

1. The Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met on 14 November 2019 and was chaired by Zainab using Teams.
2. The main ESF programme discussion was around unit cost and match. Members raised concerns about the availability of match funding at local area level and the potential risk that local areas will not be in a position to deliver any further ESF support. DWP recognised this as a risk and potential impact. DWP confirmed this issue was currently being considered and activity will be prioritised to consider potential approaches. The MA also confirmed that work continues to identify best approach to setting unit costs. Members advised the necessity to understand the needs of the cohorts and offered to feed into any future work.
3. The main ERDF performance discussion was around underperforming LEP areas and appraisal timeline for the June call applications. MHCLH confirmed that the MA was on track to meet the 2 month target for appraisal of the outline applications. MHCLG also clarified that underperformance in LEPs was driven by a number of factors, including the absence of big spending institutions such as universities or a concentrated focus on ETC.
4. The main ESF Reserve Fund discussion was around the Reserve Fund value and the timeline/cut off dates for launching Calls. Members queried how the Reserve Fund launch value had been calculated and identified the need for local areas to be kept informed of current Reserve Fund value so they are aware of potential competition for funds. DWP clarified the calculation assumptions and highlighted that information on current value will be reported on to PDR, GPB and LEP Leads. DWP also clarified that the current timelines for launching Calls indicate June 2020 as the cut off point.

5. The main ERDF Reserve Fund discussion was around the Reserve Fund application prioritisation and call templates. MHCLG clarified how the prioritisation process would work, position on minimum project size and on FIs. Members asked for MHCLG to clarify language to ensure that outline applications include enough relevant details to inform prioritisation. Members were invited to provide additional feedback by 20 November. Members from Cornwall asked that MHCLG provides a formal response to the CloS opt-out request.
6. The Monitoring and Evaluation discussion was postponed to the next meeting. Members asked to focus on impact.
7. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 13 February 2020.



## 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, there are no substantive updates to make.

## 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 last met on 14 May 2018 and have not met since, there are no substantive updates to make.

## Sustainable Growth and Development Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. The committee meet on the 17 October 2019.
2. The committee was provided with an update on progress in priorities 4, 5, 6 & 7.
3. Tim Wheatley provided an update on the Reserve Food. The committee was made aware that following discussions with the Environment Agency it was unlikely that there would be a PA5 Reserve Fund as most of the flood prevention projects that could be brought forward within the timescale have already been supported as it can take quite a bit of time to develop a PA5 project.
4. James Johnston from the NW Energy Hub (a number of regional energy hubs have been established) which are supported through BEIS provided an update on the work of the hub and the Low Carbon Technical Assistance role for ERDF that has been piloted in the NW Energy Hub.
5. Duncan Carnie (ESF) provide an update on the ESF programme approach to the Cross-Cutting themes within the programme and provided members of the committee with a copy of the associated report.
6. A discussion was held on the Local Authority Climate Emergencies that have been called and it was noted that many of these plans have a gap in relation to energy needs. A discussion was also had around the Reserve Fund.
7. The next meeting of the sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled.

## Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Agenda Sub-Committee

### Membership

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| • <b>David Morrall (Chair)</b><br>MHCLG | • <b>Heather Waddington</b><br>Leeds City Region        | • <b>Huw Jenkins</b><br>Liverpool City Region         |
| • <b>Iain Derrick</b><br>MHCLG          | • <b>Stuart Scott</b><br>Greater London Authority       | • <b>Robin McDowell</b><br>Bristol City Council       |
| • <b>Garry White</b><br>MHCLG           | • <b>Lloyd Broad</b><br>Greater Birmingham and Solihull | • <b>Jem Woolley</b><br>Nottingham City Council       |
| • <b>Glyn Darbyshire Evans</b><br>MHCLG |   | • <b>Alison Gordon</b><br>Manchester City Council     |
| • <b>Sam Lucas</b><br>MHCLG             | • <b>Felix Kumi-Ampofo</b><br>Sheffield City Region     | • <b>Maggie O'Carroll</b><br>The Women's Organisation |
| • <b>Peggy Haywood</b><br>MHCLG         | • <b>Teresa Kirby</b><br>Newcastle City Region          | • <b>David Anderson</b><br>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.** £3.7m remains available, of which £2m falls in PA5. A further call for PA4 and PA5 funds under consideration but demand for PA5 is subject to discussions with the Environment Agency; consideration being given to potential swapping the £2m PA5 funds with non-SUD funds from Leeds, providing it complies with the relevant SUD strategies.
- **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, one of which has passed the outline stage. A fifth call for the remaining allocation of £6.8m closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and two applications have been received. A further call for the remaining allocation will be published in due course.
- **Greater Manchester CA.** The latest call closed in June with one outline application progressing to full appraisal. Three further calls were launched in June and outline applications received totalling £8.6 million out of the £10.8m remaining. A further call will be launched in January for £1.9m. 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. However, this project subsequently withdrew. Currently the balance remaining is £ 3,089,042 of which £411,634 is PA2, £604,639 is PA3, and £ 2,072,769 is PA4. A further call is planned for early 2020 when the results of the full appraisals are known. Previous calls have had a requirement for projects to be multi priority axis – this requirement will be removed for the next call to provide increased flexibility for eligible projects to come forward.
- **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 six applications in the pipeline. Seven full applications have been receive for funding; four at the end of October 2019. However, one applicant has recently withdrawn, leaving six live applications, which are currently being appraised. 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, £2.97m remains to be allocated. A final call is expected later in 2019.
- **London.** All of London's £184 million allocation contributes to SUD. Including outline applications submitted under the June 2019 call, London would be 102% committed. However, excluding pipeline applications and likely attrition, 82% of its allocation is committed to live projects. Any unallocated PA4 funds will be committed to its financial instrument. London is not currently planning to launch further calls.
- **Liverpool City Region:** Two full applications have been approved, and the grant funding agreements issued, which utilises the full allocation.
- **Bristol SUD region:** The first call was launched on 5 October 2018, utilising the full SUD allocation. One outline application under PA3 worth £2 million ERDF was received. An invitation was subsequently made for Bristol CC to prepare a Full Application. During its preparation the council requested if they could progress with the revenue part of their application separately due to delays in the capital part of the project. This was agreed by the SUD committee and Bristol CC subsequently submitted a full application for 700K which is currently being appraised. This will be presented to the SUD committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A capital outline application bid for 1.3m was then submitted in response to a

further call for PA4/PA3, utilising the remaining allocation. The outline assessment will be presented to the SUD committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. One further call for the remaining £1m of PA4 monies will be considered as there were no applications for the PA4 part of the call.

1. The MA has completed the first round of performance review meetings with the city authorities designated as devolved Intermediate Bodies, to discuss progress in implementing their SUD strategies.
2. 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.
3. The next meeting of the sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled.