



**European Union**

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## **Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough ESI Funds ESIF Sub Committee**

### **Minutes of the interim meeting held Monday 20 May 2019**

The Incubator 2, First Floor, Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald,  
Huntingdon, PE28 4WX

#### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 27 March 2019 and action update
3. Revised ESIF Strategy
4. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Projects Appraisals
5. ERDF Call Specifications Update
6. European Social Fund (ESF) National/Local Update
7. ESF Draft Call
8. Combined Authority: Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)  
contracts and ESF Providers Forum Update
9. Any Other Business

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- 1.1 The **Chair** thanked the ESIF Sub Committee for their attendance and apologies were noted as detailed in Appendix B. This meeting was called as an interim meeting to deal with business that could not be brought to the 27 March 2019 meeting.
- 1.2 The **Chair** reminded the ESIF Sub Committee to make declarations of interest, complete a Conflict of Interest form where necessary and provide comments on the local strategic fit and value for money of the applications presented to them during this meeting.
- 1.3 The **Chair** asked the ESIF Sub Committee to ensure all members were aware of and had signed and returned the Terms of Reference forms provided at the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of 27 March 2019 meeting and action update**

2.1. Action Points from the previous meeting were agreed as cleared with the exception of Action 4. The Secretariat has since circulated the link to the ERDF case study booklet and closed this action.

2.2. The draft minutes of the 27 March 2019 meeting were approved as accurate.

### 3. Revised ESIF Strategy

3.1. **Andy Luff** presented the revised Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area ESIF Strategy. The paper proposed changes to the ESIF Strategy to reflect changes in ERDF notional allocations and targets as a result of a swap of notional allocation between Coast to Capital LEP and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP ESIF Area and then a further swap of allocations with Oxfordshire LEP.

3.2. The ESIF Sub Committee discussed the changes and agreed that the changes increased the ability of the strategy to deliver. There were no difficulties anticipated in meeting targets. The ESIF Sub Committee formally agreed the changes to the ESIF Strategy.

#### Action Point 1

- **Andy Luff to complete changes to the updated ESIF Strategy and arrange publication online.**

### 4. ERDF Projects appraisals

#### Sustainability Hub and Accelerator- 'Innovate to Adapt'

4.1. **Andy Luff** declared an interest in that he had assisted this project as a consultant: it was agreed that he would remain in the meeting and answer any factual questions. The **Chair** declared that as he has a nominal teaching post at Cambridge University and some contact with the applicant, he may have a conflict. It was agreed this was low risk and the **Chair** remained for the discussion of both projects.

4.2. **Vicki Bidwell** introduced the project which has reached the full application stage. The applicant – the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership -is seeking £3m in ERDF under Priority Axis 3 to provide incubator space for SMEs and to help businesses to respond to sustainability challenges through adaptation. Most of the funding is for capital refurbishment works and the project has already started at risk.

4.3. The ESIF Sub Committee noted that the State Aid question had been answered but wanted confirmation of which articles applied. **Vicki Bidwell** agreed to update the appraisal with the appropriate state aid GBERs used. It was confirmed that the whole building to be refurbished for the project would be refurbished to the same standard, not only the ERDF-funded areas. The ESIF Sub Committee agreed that the project had strategic fit, was value for money and was deliverable.

#### Innovation Centre in Digital Molecular Technologies (iDMT)

- 4.4. The **Chair** reminded the ESIF Sub Committee of the need to declare any conflicts of interest. **Vicki Bidwell** introduced the project which has reached the full application stage. The applicant – the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership -is seeking £2,497,352 in ERDF under Priority Axis 1 to develop new products and services through university partnership and knowledge transfer. The project will upgrade an innovation space and create a shared research facility.
- 4.5. The ESIF Sub Committee discussed the project and asked questions about the cost of a researcher relocating to work with SMEs and renting space outside the offices while the project is delivered. **Vicki Bidwell** was able to assure the ESIF Sub Committee that these costs had been tested. The ESIF Sub Committee agreed that the project had strategic fit, was value for money and was deliverable.

### **5. ERDF Call Specifications Update**

- 5.1. **Vicki Bidwell** updated the ESIF Sub Committee on the development of specifications for the ERDF calls to be issued in June 2019, including changes to the calls process. The final drafts will be circulated by written procedure and then published on 28 June 2019 with a closing date of 30 September 2019. **Vicki** then updated the meeting on progress with current ERDF applications.

### **6. ESF National/Local Update**

- 6.1. **Joanna Wright** gave a verbal update on key points on ESF progress locally and nationally. **Joanna** noted that a number of recent ESF applications in other LEP areas had failed appraisal because they had not fully addressed the cross cutting themes. There is a need to be aware and robust about the cross cutting themes at the application stage. **Joanna** then gave an update on progress with applications in the local area.

### **7. ESF Draft Call**

#### Strengthening the links between business and education to address skills needs and workforce development

- 7.1. **Joanna Wright** introduced the final version of a call that had been discussed at the 27 March 2019 meeting. The call will be for £2.342m which is the whole IP 2.2 allocation. The ESIF Sub Committee noted that the call was important to the delivery of the local ESIF strategy. There was particular support for the health and social care aspects of the call. It was agreed that it would be helpful to respond to a comment from the appraiser to add some information on T-levels and also to acknowledge the importance of providing routes

into apprenticeships. The ESIF Sub Committee was of the view that marketing of the call was important as this was a new initiative for the area and it was key to get local partnerships together.

## **8. Combined Authority: ESFA contracts and ESF Providers Forum - update**

- 8.1. **Andy Luff** gave a verbal update about current ESFA contracts and progress in setting up an ESF Provider's Forum. ESFA has concluded the round 2 opt in and three tripartite meetings have been held with providers. The Combined Authority wants to create an ESF provider's forum. On 22 May 2019 there was a meeting of all ESF providers in order to look at the skills strategy and its priorities. **Andy Luff** will report back on this at the next ESIF Sub Committee.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1. The **Chair** thanked members for their contributions and the Combined Authority for hosting and providing the venue.

### **Date, time and venue of future meetings:**

- **Date:** 19 September 2019 **Venue:** Combined Authority offices, Alconbury

## **Annex A**

### **List of Agreed Actions for the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough ESI Funds ESIF Sub Committee 20/05/2019 Meeting.**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Assigned to</b>
3	1. Andy Luff to complete changes to the updated ESIF Strategy and arrange publication online.	Andy Luff

## **Annex B     Attendee List**

### **Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Area ESI Funds subcommittee 20/05/2019 Meeting**

#### **Chair & Deputy Chair:**

<b>Name, title and organisation</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation Representing</b>
David Gill, St John's Innovation Centre	Chair
Georgia Pritchard, MHCLG	Deputy Chair (ERDF Managing Authority)

#### **Subcommittee Members:**

<b>Name, title and organisation</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation Representing</b>
Vicki Bidwell – MHCLG	ERDF Managing Authority
Clare Higgins	Cross Keys Homes/LEP
Joanna Wright	ESF Managing Authority (DWP)
Hannah Padfield	NFU

#### **Others in attendance (non-members - including secretariat):**

<b>Name, title and organisation</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation Representing</b>
Tim Whelehan	ERDF Managing Authority – Secretariat
Andy Luff	C&PCA Consultant
Stuart Durrell	Department for Work and Pensions

#### **Apologies:**

<b>Name, title and organisation</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation Representing</b>
Julia Nix	Equalities/DWP
David Sillett	EAFRD Managing Authority
Matthew Smith	
Steve Clarke	C&P CA