



## **Item 5: 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.

**Sophie Waddington**  
**GPB Secretariat**  
**25 August 2020**

## Communications Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. The Communications Sub-Committee last met on the 8 October 2019.
2. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled but the intention is to hold it via Teams in late October

## Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

### Membership

- **Steve Spendlove (Chair)**  
DWP
- **Chris Ball**  
Newcastle University
- **Joanna Cain**  
WEA
- **Nick Campbell**  
DWP
- **Catherine Crocker**  
Greater London Authority
- **Eleanor Dearle**  
Local Government Association
- **Zahra He-Li**  
Department for Education
- **Gabrielle Melvin**  
Office for Civil Society
- **John Moyer**  
DWP
- **Sue Ormiston**  
National Lottery Community Fund
- **Hitesh Patel**  
Citizens Advice
- **Nicola Radford**  
Coastal Communities Alliance
- **Laura-Jane Rawlings**  
Youth Employment UK
- **Stacey Sleeman**  
Cornwall Council
- **Nick Small**  
LEP Network
- **Marc Vermyle**  
European Commission
- **Iain Wishart**  
Education and Skills Funding Agency

1. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion National Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 24th June had to be cancelled – a large number of members were also sent their apologies as they were unable to attend.
2. However, members had been provided with papers detailing the performance update for the Programme – based on data supplied at GPB on 23rd June.
3. The papers were predominantly focused on the ESIF response to COVID-19; providing an update on what else has been done including a link to the Q&A log, which is published on gov.uk.
4. Members were encouraged to submit any specific questions which we would respond to – no questions were received.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for 29th September 2020

## Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

### Membership

- |                                                                           |                                                                      |                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Steve Spendlove</b><br>(Chair)<br>DWP                                | • <b>Catherine Crocker</b><br>Greater London Authority               | • <b>Shafqat Rahim</b><br>ESFA                                |
| • <b>Alan Beazley</b><br>Employers' Network for<br>Equality and Inclusion | • <b>Tamara Flanagan</b><br>New Europeans<br>Association             | • <b>Peter Riley</b><br>Manchester Metropolitan<br>University |
| • <b>Nick Campbell</b><br>DWP                                             | • <b>Charlie Hamilton</b><br>Equality and Human<br>Rights Commission | • <b>Marc Vermyle</b><br>European Commission                  |
| • <b>Duncan Carnie</b><br>DWP                                             | • <b>Sharon Long</b><br>Partnership for Young<br>London              | • <b>Mike Walton</b><br>MHCLG                                 |
| • <b>Richard Corfield</b><br>MHCLG                                        | • <b>Helen Millne</b><br>Third Sector                                |                                                               |
| • <b>Gary Craig</b><br>Professor of Social<br>Justice                     | • <b>Sue Ormiston</b><br>National Community<br>Lottery Fund          |                                                               |

1. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Equality and Diversity sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 16th June 2020, he to be cancelled.
2. However, members had been provided with papers detailing the performance update for the Programme – based on data supplied at GPB on 23rd June.
3. The papers were predominantly focused on the ESIF response to COVID-19; providing an update on what else has been done including a link to the Q&A log, which is published on gov.uk.
4. The sub-Committee was also provided with the 'ESF Good Practice for Disabled People', 'Promoting Equality in ESF', 'Supporting Learners with Learning Difficulties' and 'ESF Gender Equality Good Practice' guides, previously agreed to as an action from the previous meeting.
5. Members were encouraged to submit any specific questions which we would respond to – no questions were received.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for 13th October 2020.

## Evaluation Sub-Committee

### Membership

- |                                                    |                                                |                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>David Morrall</b><br>Chair, MHCLG             | • <b>Simon Jones</b><br>Deputy Chair,<br>MHCLG | • <b>Sophia Peacock</b><br>Secretariat, MHCLG          |
| • <b>John Osborne</b><br>MHCLG                     | • <b>Nisha Patel</b><br>MHCLG                  | • <b>Peter Sutton</b><br>MHCLG                         |
| • <b>Nicholas Campbell</b><br>DWP                  | • <b>Derek Egan</b><br>DEFRA                   | • <b>Sarah Haley</b><br>DEFRA                          |
| • <b>Jean Davis</b><br>DEFRA                       | • <b>Stuart Roddam</b><br>BEIS                 | • <b>Marianne Law</b><br>BEIS                          |
| • <b>David Campbell</b><br>BEIS                    | • <b>Emily Sumner</b><br>BEIS                  | • <b>Peter Wills</b><br>Cornwall Council               |
| • <b>Konstantina Dimou</b><br>DCMS                 | • <b>Neil Evans</b><br>Hatch Regeneris         | • <b>Sue Parkinson</b><br>North East LEP               |
| • <b>Anthony Mtitimila</b><br>Liverpool University | • <b>Prabhat Vaze</b><br>Belmana               | • <b>Francis Lee</b><br>Cheshire and<br>Warrington LEP |
| • <b>Capucine Riom</b><br>LSE                      | • <b>Phil Smith</b><br>Business West           | • <b>Marc Vermyle</b><br>EC                            |
| • <b>Robyn Owen</b><br>Middlesex University        | • <b>Anne Lythgoe</b><br>Social Audit Network  |                                                        |
| • <b>John Hacking</b><br>Network for Europe        |                                                |                                                        |

1. The Evaluation Sub-committee met on 2 March 2020 and has not met since.
2. Members were updated on progress on the ERDF National Evaluation by Neil Evans from Hatch Regeneris, who outlined on-going work on the Summative Assessment Review, Beneficiary Survey, and Interim Counterfactual Impact Evaluation. The evaluators highlighted challenges relating to the quality of data, which has been lower than expected, both in relation to beneficiary data and the SA final reports.
3. The MA updated the committee on work being undertaken by the ERDF Policy Team to address challenges on the quantity and quality of SAs, including working closely with Evaluation Champions, updating the Guidance, reviewing processes, taking on more quality assurance work, and plans to engage directly with Grant Recipients.
4. Members were given an update on both the ESF and RDPE evaluation programmes, both of which are still collecting data but are also reporting interim survey and impact findings. ESF are also employing CIE methods and areas of overlap between the evaluation programmes was discussed.
5. The next meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> October to coincide with the National Evaluation Phase 2 Report.

## Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

### Membership

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

1. Since June the Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met twice:
  - a. On the 4 June for an extraordinary session; and
  - a. On the 14 July for the regular quarterly meeting.
2. The extraordinary session was focused on the ERDF programme. MHCLG provided an update on the Reopening High Street Safety (RHSS) Fund, the -then- future Visitor Economy (VE) package and on how to best use the remaining allocation to deliver quick, pragmatic and efficient local interventions. The main discussion was around ensuring that Local Authorities had the right support to deliver the RHSS fund and around the scope and the timescale of the VE package as well as how this would work for the Growth Hubs without ERDF.
3. At the quarterly meeting the main ERDF discussion was around options to deploy the remaining unallocated funds in further COVID-19 responses, the £10m Kickstarting Tourism (KT) and the £20m Growth Hubs (GH) schemes.
4. On deploying the remaining ERDF, Members raised that as key local players third sector organisations would be worth supporting in addition to businesses and that LEP level recovery plans and IBs should be factored in the development of future initiatives, in particular to support place based R&I. Members also highlighted that flexibility

should be to build into future initiatives fund to respond to new challenges such as local areas returning to lockdown and added that a grouped approach combining ESF and ERDF would facilitate this.

5. As Members were keen to better understand how MHCLG would manage the transition to the domestic successor fund MHCLG clarified that they would work to prevent any gap in provision in core growth areas, to retain local capacity and best practice into the successor fund.
6. The main ESF discussion was around the DWP wide offer and the use of the remaining ESF, how to implement the 100% Intervention Rate (IR) flexibility, proposals for using this flexibility to address homelessness and the digital divide and a separate COVID-19 response proposal to support people made redundant as a result of the pandemic.
7. On the implementation of the 100% IR flexibility Members strongly suggested to focus solely on bolt on activity for existing projects as they have the admin and infrastructure already in place to apply and deliver in due time. This would also limit the addition of further delay to the current pipeline of appraisal. DWP recognised the delivery challenge but ensured that they were committed to avoid any further delay and that they would deploy a rolling call to accelerate project appraisal.
8. On the proposal to address the digital divide, Members suggested to provide data alongside the kit to address the data poverty issue and to move the emphasis from home schooling to providing additional support for existing ESF employability and learners projects to help people access or return to work. DWP said that a cross government working group including DCMS was already meeting to see what could be pragmatically in this space and that they would include the conversation around data.
9. As Members sought clarification on the possibility for ESF – ERDF transfers DWP answered that it would be challenging to convince ministers to move money from employment and skills to infrastructure in the current recovery situation.
10. On the use of the 100% IR offer and future initiatives, Members raised that a focus on third sector organisations capacity building and social enterprises would be welcomed. DWP said that they would investigate options, starting with a conversation with the National Lottery to learn about what is already being delivered in this space and see what pragmatically could be done.
11. To avoid political embarrassment to deprive the Northern Powerhouse of ESF funding before the domestic successor starts Members asked whether there was scope for cross CoR allocation transfer. DWP answered that they had already transferred as much as was allowed cross CoR and explained that they were talking to colleagues across DWP to understand whether some domestic funding could fill the gap locally.



12. Following a recent specific media interest in ESF performance, DWP asked Members support in directing their concerns on programme's performance directly and exclusively to the MA and to respect a confidentiality etiquette around material shared in meetings.
13. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled mid-November and an extraordinary meeting is planned in October to discuss Government's thinking on the design, structure and quantum of the domestic successor to the ESIF.

## Smart Specialisation Sub-Committee

### Membership

- **Paul Drabwell (Chair)**  
BEIS
- **Farhana Quasem**  
BEIS (Secretariat)
- **Tricia Allen**  
MHCLG
- **Nicholas French**  
BEIS
- **Mark Duddridge**  
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly  
LEP
- **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

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

- **To be confirmed**  
Cities & Local Growth
- **Tim Courtney**  
BEIS
- **David Morrall**  
MHCLG
- **John Bennett**  
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  
and 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 have not met since, there are no substantive updates to make.

## 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**  
MCHLG
- **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 sub-committee last met on 17 October 2019 and have not met since, there are no substantive updates to make.
2. The next meeting of the sub-committee has not yet been scheduled.

## Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Agenda Sub-Committee

### Membership

- **David Morrall (Chair)**  
MHCLG
- **Iain Derrick**  
MHCLG
- **Sam Lucas**  
MHCLG
- **Peggy Haywod**  
MHCLG
- **Heather Waddington**  
Leeds City Region
- **Lloyd Broad**  
Greater Birmingham  
and Solihull
- **Felix Kumi-Ampofo**  
Sheffield City Region
- **Teresa Kirby**  
Newcastle City Region
- **Huw Jenkins**  
Liverpool City Region
- **Robin McDowell**  
Bristol City Council
- **Stuart Scott**  
Greater London  
Authority
- **Jem Woolley**  
Nottingham City  
Council
- **Alison Gordon**  
Manchester City  
Council
- **Maggie O'Carroll**  
The Women's  
Organisation

1. The sub-committee last met 28 March 2019 and have not met since, there are no substantive updates to make.
2. The next meeting of the sub-Committee has not yet been scheduled.