



Item 8: 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
December 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.

Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The last meeting was held via MS Teams on 29th September.
2. Members were provided with an update on the ESF Programme Performance, based on the ESF Update Paper presented to GPB on 15/09/2020. This included updates on:
 - i) ESF Commitment;
 - ii) Appraisals activities, including recent recruitment position; and,
 - iii) N+3 2020
3. Specific agenda items were:
 - i) Update on the Reserve Fund – what its current value is and the volume and value of recent Call Proposals
 - ii) Update on the response to COVID – including launching the Lump-Sum SCO Digital Inclusion Call.
 - iii) Open Forum – members asked how they can provide input, insight and Good Practice into the UKSPF.
4. The next meeting is scheduled for 14th December 2020.

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The last meeting was held on 13th October, via MS Teams.
2. Members were provided with an update on the ESF Programme Performance, based on the ESF Update Paper presented to GPB on 15/09/2020. This included updates on:
 - i) ESF Commitment;
 - ii) Appraisals activities, including recent recruitment position; and,
 - iii) N+3 2020
3. Specific agenda items were:
 - i) Update on the Reserve Fund – what its current value is and the volume and value of recent Call Proposals
 - ii) Update on the response to COVID – including launching the Lump-Sum SCO Digital Inclusion Call.
 - iii) Open Forum – members asked how they can provide input, insight and Good Practice into the UKSPF; Sue had represented E&D NSC at PDR to see what could be fed into UKSPF, but it had been difficult to do so.
4. There are no further meetings scheduled for 2020.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The Evaluation Sub-committee met on 20 October 2020.
2. Members were updated on Phase Two of the ERDF National Evaluation by Neil Evans and Gemal Mekki (Hatch Regeneris) and Prabhat Vaze (Belmana). The focus of phase two is to start to understand the outcomes and impacts of the ERDF on local economies and on what works. The presentation covered headline interim findings, including overview of progress and methods, relevance and consistency, programme delivery performance, process evaluation findings, outcome and impact evaluation, and key actions. The Phase Two report is about 6-7 weeks behind schedule due to the impact of COVID-19 both on carrying out fieldwork and being able to access monitoring data.
3. The MA updated the committee on completed, on-going, and planned activity by the ERDF Policy Team to address challenges on the quantity and quality of summative assessments, including working closely with delivery network evaluation champions, updating the Guidance, reviewing processes, taking on more quality assurance work, and continued communications to projects and contract managers. In terms of monitoring data, while the MA has introduced flexibilities on evidence requirements, the form has been updated to include jobs safeguarded to support projects which may underperform on C8s to record evidence on safeguarding.
4. Members were given an update on both the ESF and RDPE evaluation programmes. The ESF evaluation has completed its qualitative fieldwork (finalised just before the

March lockdown) and expect key reports to be published early 2021. The New Leavers survey will be commissioned in November 2020. Colleagues from RDPE provided a brief update on the plans for their Ex-post Evaluation, due end of 2024, which will focus on socio-economic schemes and cross cutting themes.

5. The next meeting will be early 2021 to allow members to input on the phase three plans and design. Members are also expecting updates on the Superfast Broadband project (DCMS) and the Growth Hubs Evaluation (BEIS) at the next meeting.

Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. Since September the Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met three times:
 - On the 22nd September for an extraordinary session; and
 - On the 3rd September and the 12th November for the regular quarterly meetings.
2. The extraordinary session was focused on UKSPF and with an Equality & Diversity perspective. Members provided views on the objectives and purpose of UKSPF, allocation options and financial model, and the role of institutions and Government. These were fed back to the UKSPF team.
3. At the September quarterly meeting the main ESF discussion was around the new Digital Inclusion call launched. Members sought confirmation about the type of project targeted and DWP clarified that as the activity targeted at participants on already running projects only add-ons to existing projects would be funded. Close to approval pipeline projects would also be considered providing that they could guarantee to be running by December 2020.
4. The main ERDF discussion was around the Covid-19 responses - the Growth Hub and Kick-starting Tourism schemes, and Reopening High Street Safely fund -. Members raised concerns on RHSS delivery and sought assurance that money would not be clawed back from councils. MHCLG explained that CLGU had conducted webinars to bring LAs together, address communication issues and minimise errors and problems with ineligible expenditure. On programme performance MHCLG also clarified that the

European Commission had taken a positive and supportive approach regarding progress against Performance Framework targets in recognition of the challenges caused by Covid-19.

5. Members enquired about the intention to review or extend ERDF TA and whether TA was also envisaged for the UKSPF. MHCLG explained the MA was keeping this under review to ensure that this reflected demand but with the majority of ERDF committed or under appraisal and with the December deadline for commitment the scope to agree further TA would be limited. On TA for UKSPF DWP clarified that as the design of UKSPF was ongoing, this was still to be agreed.
6. At the November quarterly meeting the ESF discussion covered the Digital Interventions Call, the Reserve Fund, the Pipeline and N+3. Members expressed frustration at the delays in the system, the inability to react at pace to the national emergency and were concerned that the MA would not be able to spend the remaining ESF funding in time. DWP agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting by the end of November to explore potential remedial actions.
7. The main ERDF discussion was around the achievement of performance framework targets and the remaining allocation. Members raised that the spending of the remaining allocation should be fair and based on geographical needs. MHCLG agreed to present a review of the investment options to spend the remaining ERDF at the next quarterly meeting.

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.