



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.

Rob Martell
GPB Secretariat
23 March 2021

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. ESSI NSCs have been held on 29/09/20, 14/12/20 and 10/03/21.
2. Main discussions have been around commitment of remaining funds via the Reserve Fund to focus on COVID-recovery activities – including the Lump Sum Digital Call; achievement of N+3 2020 (which was successful, exceeding the year-on target by 0.91%); and, any potential to contribute to the UKSPF.
3. The next meeting is scheduled for 26th May 2021

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The last meeting of 2020, was held on 13th October.
2. Main discussion was around commitment of remaining funds via the Reserve Fund to focus on COVID-recovery activities – including the Lump Sum Digital Call; achievement of N+3 2020 (which was successful, exceeding the year-on target by 0.91%); and, any potential to contribute to the UKSPF.
3. The next meeting is scheduled for 24th March 2021.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • David Morrall
Chair, MHCLG | • Simon Jones
Deputy Chair,
MHCLG | • Sophia Peacock
Secretariat, MHCLG |
| • John Osborne
MHCLG | • Hannah Hudson
MHCLG | • Mario Deconti
MHCLG |
| • Laura Parker-Tong
MHCLG | • Derek Egan
DEFRA | • Sarah Haley
DEFRA |
| • Nicholas Campbell
DWP | • Tyler Spencer-Pote
DWP | • Danielle House
BEIS |
| • Jean Davis
DEFRA | • Stuart Roddam
BEIS | • Zac Jopling
BEIS |
| • David Campbell
BEIS | • Tyler Rickard
BEIS | • Peter Wills
Cornwall Council |
| • Konstantina Dimou
DCMS | • Neil Evans
Hatch Regeneris | • Sue Parkinson
North East LEP |
| • Anthony Mtitimila
Liverpool University | • Prabhat Vaze
Belmana | • Francis Lee
Cheshire and
Warrington LEP |
| • Capucine Riom
What Works Centre | • Phil Smith
Business West | • Marc Vermyle
EC |
| • Robyn Owen
Middlesex University | • Anne Lythgoe
Social Audit Network | |
| • John Hacking
Network for Europe | | |

1. The Evaluation Sub-Committee last met on 16 March 2021. An update from this meeting, where the conversation was largely centred around the planning for the phase three of the national evaluation report, will be available in the June GPB National Sub-Committee (NSC) Report.
2. The previous meeting was held on 20 October 2020. A summary of the key points discussed at that meeting was provided in the December 2020 GPB NSC Report.
3. The next meeting has yet to be scheduled but is planned for late September/October 2021.

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 December the Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met three times:
 - On the 1st December 2020 and the 26th January 2021 for extraordinary sessions; and
 - On the 25th February 2021 for the regular quarterly meeting.
2. The 1st December extraordinary session was focused on ESF solely. The main discussion was about the Reserve Fund and the challenges that DWP needed to address. Following the discussion a Task and Finish group was created to support and help DWP drive progress on how to best utilise the remaining funding.
3. The 26th January extraordinary session was focused on ERDF investment options and the use of the £100m unallocated ERDF. MHCLG presented a proposals to invest £50m in a broadened Reopening High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF+) and another £50m to support the Visitor Economy. The main RHSSF+ discussion was around the need to ease the 4% limit for budget resource and to allow partnership with other local players to help Local Authorities (LAs) deliver. The main Visitor Economy discussion was around the geographic restriction to the Transition region, the potential scope and the delivery via Growth Hubs. MHCLG asked Members to provide ideas for potential new activities building up on the existing Kickstarting Tourism scheme.
4. At the February quarterly meeting the main the ERDF MA provided an update on the LUF and the £220m announcements. The main discussion was around the content of the prospectuses, the timescale for the UKSPF prospectus and possible consultation. The MA confirmed that the prospectuses would set out how and who the funding would be allocated to and explained that the work on UKPSF would begin following the budget. The MA recognised

the benefits of stakeholder engagement and clarified that they were working hard at feeding what works and good practices from ESIF programme into UKSPF design. MHCLG added that the LUF and £220m were an opportunity to demonstrate what works and emphasised that timescales were tight and projects would need to be up and running rapidly.

5. MHCLG presented the ERDF programme update. The main discussion was around the discrepancy between the amount received from the European Commission (EC) and that paid out by the MA to grant recipients. The MA explained that this was due to the contracting of projects at co-financing rates lower than the programme co-financing rates which the EC relies on for reimbursement.

6. The ERDF MA presented an update on the use of the ERDF allocation potentially remaining. The main discussion was around the impact of FOREX fluctuations, on the delivery of the RHSSF+ and the process for recycling of ERDF. MHCLG explained that because of financial risks associated with FOREX fluctuations additional investment into the Visitor Economy would not be viable. On the RHSSF+ the MA clarified that LAs that had rejected the original RHSSF would not be excluded from the RHSSF+ and would still be able claim their original allocation. The MA added that they were open to the possibility that LAs pool their allocation together or transfer it to another local government entity to deliver on their behalf. Finally, MHCLG clarified that any original LA RHSSF allocation left could be used to undertake new RHSSF+ activities. On recycling, the MA explained that this would be done at regional level through extensions to well performing projects, one approach to do this could be applications via a short Expression of Interest process but GDT Heads would have discretion on their approach. Project performance and delivery to date would be key to providing further funding. All types of project would be potentially in scope.

7. The main ESF discussion was around the new project extension approach taken by DWP to use the remaining Reserve Fund money. Following Members request for clarifications, DWP explained that the 50% limit for extension would remain whatever the projects as it is EU procurement regulations. Members questioned the no-more-calls approach and enquired about possible flexibility for calls that were nearly ready to be submitted to the MA. DWP explained that this would depend on how close the calls were to submission and on whether the LEP lead was informed and had included the calls in question in the forecast commitment. Whilst some Members raised that the risk associated to the lack of match remained other Members highlighted that this new opportunity had arrived at the right time as LAs had received CV-19 recovery money that could serve as match.

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 | • David Read
MCHLG | • John Osborne
MHCLG |
| • Mark Joslyn
MHCLG | • Ian Whale
MHCLG | • Emma Friend
DEFRA |
| • Duncan Carnie
DWP | • Graeme Kerr
Natural England | • Richard Powell OBE
Chair, Wild Anglia CIC |
| • Paul Nolan
Mersey Forest | • Carly McLachlan
Tyndall Centre | • Aled Jones
Anglia Ruskin University |
| • Phil Woods
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Chris Saville
Environment Agency | • Phil Larkin
National Trust |
| • Mark Atherton
New Economy,
Manchester | • Paul Bourgeois
Greater Cambridgeshire
& Greater Peterborough
LEP | |
| • Richard Hurst
Durham County Council | | |

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.