



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
22 June 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
- **Nick Campbell**
DWP
- **Catherine Crocker**
Greater London Authority
- **Eleanor Dearle**
Local Government
Association
- **Thomas Leftwich**
Department for Culture,
Media and Sport
- **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
- **Ian Standish**
Workers' Educational
Association
- **Marc Vermyle**
European Commission
- **Iain Wishart**
Education and Skills
Funding Agency

1. An ad hoc meeting was held on 28th April to discuss what input the sub-Committee can have in the development of UKSPF. A member of the sub-Committee is taking forward the suggestions and drafting a letter for the sub-group to endorse, prior to submission to the UKSPF developers.
2. The last full ESSI NSC was held on 26th May 2021

Equality & Diversity Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The last meeting was held on 24th March 2021.
2. The sub-Committee was advised that:
 - a. An Operational Programme (OP) amendment, which was accepted by the EC in December 2020, to enable movement of funds between Categories of Region (CoRs);
 - b. A further Digital Interventions Call was due to be launched April;
 - c. The N+3 2020 was achieved with an excess of 0.91%.
3. Confirmation was given that Action Note 063/21 would be published at the end of March 2021 to confirm arrangements for committing the remaining funds, via project extensions, and inviting projects which meet the criteria to consider applying for this funding.
4. Action Note 060/21 was issued on 17th March reminding Co-Financing Organisations (CFOs) to keep Cross-Cutting Themes (CCT) Implementation Plans up-to-date and include detail of what means they intend to promote this.
5. An update was given by a sub-Committee member who had been invited to take part in the UKSPF Design Team design sprints.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd June 2021.

Evaluation Sub-Committee

Membership

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

1. The Evaluation Sub-Committee last met on 16 March 2021. The meeting was conducted entirely on Teams.
2. The plan for Phase 3 of the ERDF National Evaluation was shared with the sub-committee and discussed. The main points made related to potential slippage in final assessment reports due to the high level of PCRs going through the system. Members also advised on additional business datasets that the evaluators may look to consider as part of the work.
3. Summative Assessment (SA) document submissions / quality assurance work. This included a discussion around the need for interim final reports for projects which have been extended and an outlining of plans for an SA relaunch in the late spring / early summer.
4. Updates also provided on RDPE Programme evaluation, ESF evaluation and Growth Hub evaluation. DEFRA reported that a tender was being drawn up for external evaluation of both the Countryside Productivity Scheme and the Farming Investment Fund and that evaluation work for both the LEADER and National Rural Network programmes was at an early stage. DWP, in their ESF update, reported that the YEI Impact Evaluation, the Leaver Survey 2016-2019 and Qualitative In-Depth Case

Studies were all complete pending publication and that all had been used to inform UKSPF planning.

5. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled but is likely to be set for September / October 2021.

Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee

Membership

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| • Simon Jones (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 |
| • Steve Spendlove
DWP | • Emily Kent
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | • Guus Muijzers
DG Regio |
| • Emma Kirkpatrick
DWP | • Helen Milne
Third Sector | • Jo Lappin
LEP Network |
| • Sylvain Alem
MHCLG | • Richard Davies
BEIS | • James Newman
LEP Network (transition) |
| • Mary-Louise Harrison
LEP Network (more
developed) | • Richard Powell
Local Nature
Partnerships | • Carol Ownsworth
Third Sector |
| • David Pratt
Higher Education | • Paul Green
Local Government (LGA) | • Helen Millne
Third Sector |
| | | • Pernille Kousgaard
MCA |

1. The Performance & Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee met on the 20th May 2021.
2. The members expressed their thanks to Geoff Hawker who is moving to a new role and Hilda Mounsey who has taken early retirement. The replacement for Geoff was not in place at the time of the meeting but the committee welcomed Katie Dalsgaard as Hilda's replacement
3. Following the ERDF progress update, members welcomed the programme achievements against the performance framework targets and enquired whether the MA was expecting to overachieve the output targets. MHCLG confirmed that although CV-19 had impacted delivery pace most of the outputs were expected to be overachieved and that none of the targets looked problematic. The MA added that this had been flagged in the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) providing a basis for discussion with the European Commission if required.
4. There was a discussion on lessons learnt from the ERDF programme and how they may help inform the development of domestic successor Funds.
5. Following the ESF progress the main issues covered in the discussion were:
 - Members raised that the task and finish group might need to meet again to discuss how to use the remaining Reserve Fund allocation as the MA received half less PCR applications than expected. DWP said that in the first instance the MA needed to analyse how much allocation the applications received would take up by priorities and categories of region and what it meant for the Reserve Fund but agreed that the group might need to convene again to come up with a plan B to use the remaining allocation.

- Members asked for an update around the digital call. DWP explained that all the phase 1 approved projects but one had been successful and had claimed their full lump sum and added that the phase 2 call would be open until w/c 1 June. The MA explained that so far no applications had been received but several projects were at drafting stage on Eclairs.
- Members indicated that suggestions were made for the phase 2 Digital call proposals building on lessons learned from phase 1 and asked whether these had been taken into account and reflected on the final call. DWP confirmed that the lessons from phase 1 had been learned and that the phase 2 reflected these and looked to facilitate delivery. For instance, the MA extended the project duration to allow enough time for procurement and changed the payment method to quarterly mini lump sums associated with targets to meet during the project life.
- Members sought clarification on the speed with which appraisals, GFAs and project closure was being undertaken. DWP set out for each the measures being taken which Members welcomed.
- Members enquired about the European Commission (EC)'s views on the CV-19 easements. DWP explained that whilst some easements would be lifted in line with the HMG's Roadmap digital signatures would be kept and become BAU for GFA as well as participants records; this would be communicated to grant recipients through an action note soon.

5. The next meeting is in the diary for 9th September 2021.

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

- **Iain Derrick (Chair)**
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.