



**European Union**

European Structural  
and Investment Funds

**GPB 20220621 Item 2(iii)**  
**European Structural and Investment Funds**  
**2014 - 2020**

**Growth Programme for England**

## **ESI Funds Growth Programme Board**

### **Progress on EAFRD Growth Programme**

#### **Purpose:**

To provide the Board with an update on the current position on the EAFRD part of the EU ESI Funds Growth Programme.

#### **Recommendations**

The Board is invited to note the information set out in this paper.

#### **Summary:**

As of 23 May under the 3 rounds of the RDPE Growth Programme, a total of £161m had been awarded in grants to 1,011 projects across the Tourism Infrastructure, Food Processing, Business Development and Tourism Co-operation themes.

Of this £161m, £125m has been paid out, contracting 5,907 FTE jobs, of which 2,310 have already been created.

In addition, there are 17 contracts for funding totalling £69m under the Rural Broadband Infrastructure offer. These projects are at varying stages of delivery.

All allocated RDPE Growth Programme funding has, therefore, now been committed to projects.

## **EAFRD GROWTH PROGRAMME UPDATE**

### *Delivery Update*

1. As of 23rd May, £161m of grant funding had been awarded to 1,011 projects under the three rounds of the RDPE Growth Programme. The Rural Payments Agency completed the contracting stage of the final round of this scheme on schedule in June 2021. All allocated RDPE Growth Programme funding has, therefore, now been committed to projects.
2. Of the £161m that has now been awarded, £125m has been paid to projects. To date, 5,907 FTE jobs have been contracted and 2,310 created. This is an increase of 498 jobs created since the March update. We are working with the RPA to explore if jobs created can be reported more frequently.
3. The main EAFRD Growth Programme has provided funding to projects under four separate Measures within the EU Rural Development Regulations: Measure 4.2 (Food Processing); Measure 6.4 (Rural Business Development); Measure 7.5 (Tourism Infrastructure); and Measure 16.2 (Tourism Cooperation).
4. Under the Tourism Infrastructure Measure, 124 projects have been awarded £27m of grant funding and £22m has so far been paid out to projects.
5. Under the separate Tourism Cooperation Measure, which was only offered in Round 1, 12 projects were contracted which have now completed and £705k has been spent.
6. Food processing contracts totalling £68m have been awarded to 245 projects. To date spend is £53m.
7. There have been 630 Rural Business Development projects contracted under Measure 6.4, worth £65m. Of this, £50m of funding has been paid to date.

### *Rural Broadband Infrastructure Fund*

8. In addition to the four Measures being used under the main EAFRD Growth Programme, a fifth Measure (7.3) is the basis for the Rural Broadband Infrastructure Fund, which is supporting Local Authorities to bring superfast broadband to some of the most remote parts of rural England.
9. There are currently 17 live RBIS contracts, totalling £69m. The infrastructure funded is forecast to 'pass' 15,383 business premises and 61,001 other premises, to the benefit of a population of 154,053.
10. Projects are now in the delivery stage: eight Local Authorities have made claims and a total of £21m has been paid. All projects need to be completed and claims made by 31 December 2022.

11. Some broadband projects have indicated delays to project delivery due to shortage of workers with the necessary skills and of some components. However, all are working to a final claim date of 31 December 2022.

Emma Friend

7 June 2022

## ANNEX 1

**Table 1. Rural Broadband infrastructure offer.**

As at 23 May	Rural Broadband
Total Budget	79.5
Full Applications received	23
Value of Grant Sought (£m)	86
Number withdrawn/rejected	6
Number Contracted	17
Value of contract (£m)	68.9
Value of grant paid to date (£m)	21
Number Projects closed	-

**Table 2. Project outputs to date by theme.**

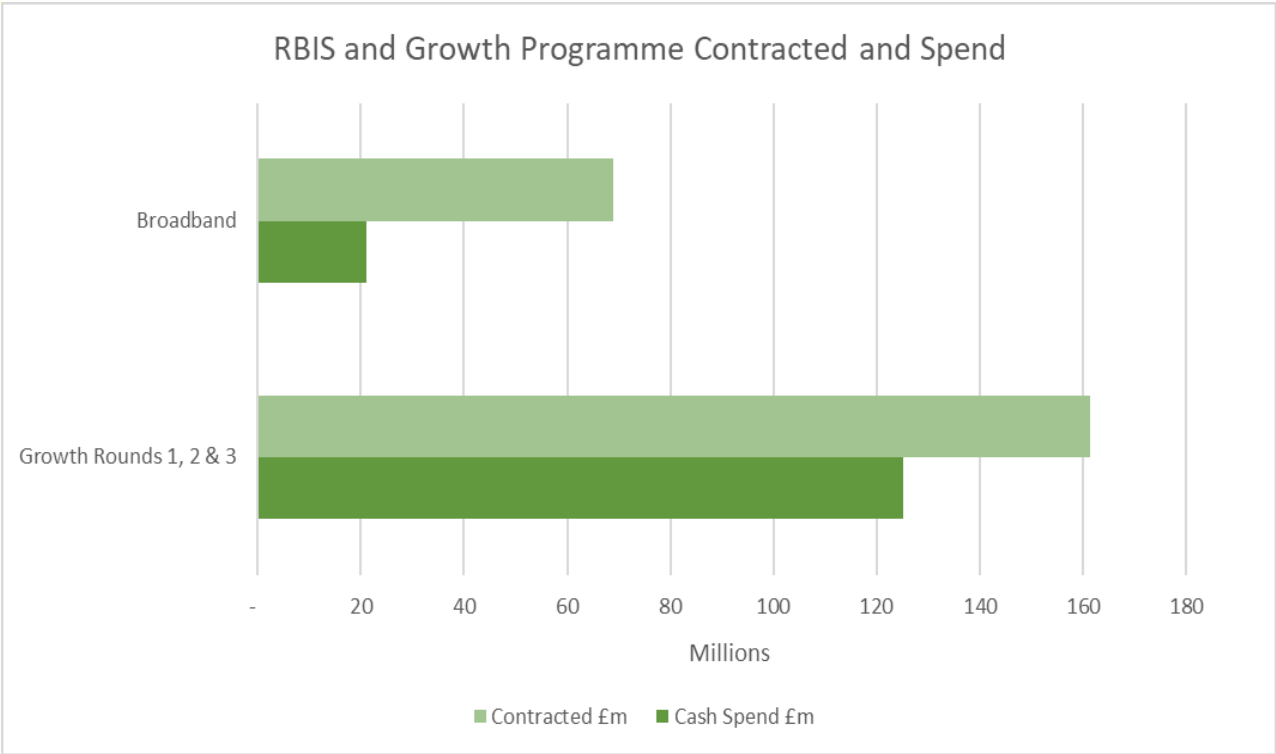
Rounds 1-3	RDPE Growth Programme	Food Processing	Business Development	Tourism Infrastructure and Cooperation
FTE Jobs Forecast	5,907	2,833	2,036	1,037
FTE Jobs Created	2,310	1,092	727	491

**Table 3: Total number of RDPE Growth Programme projects, funding committed and spend by theme as of 23 May 2022.**

Theme/Measure	No. of Projects	Funding Committed £m	Spend to Date £m
<b>Food Processing (M4.2)</b>	245	68,408,868	52,533,209
<b>Business Development (M6.4)</b>	630	64,937,903	50,077,145
<b>Tourism Infrastructure (M7.5)</b>	124	27,326,181	21,774,356
<b>Tourism Cooperation (M16.2)*</b>	12	601,362	704,756
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>£161,273,504</b>	<b>£125,089,466</b>

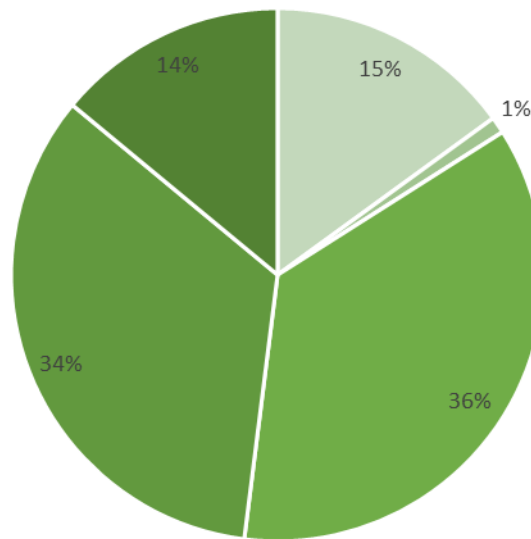
\*Theme offered in Round 1 only.

**Figure 1. Growth Programme Rural Broadband Infrastructure Scheme, Round 1, 2 and 3 contracted and spend actual figures 23rd May 2022.**



**Figure 2: Percentage Growth Programme Spend per Theme as of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

Percentage of Spend Per Theme



■ Tourism Infrastructure ■ Tourism Co-Operation ■ Food Processing ■ Business Development ■ Broadband