



## **2014 TO 2020 ERDF PROGRAMME**

### **2021 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT - CITIZENS SUMMARY**

#### **Introduction**

The 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme<sup>1</sup> for England invests in economic growth throughout the country, helping businesses create better, higher-paying jobs through support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) creating socially and economically stronger communities across England. Working in partnership with national and local stakeholders, the programme has been developed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) who are responsible for the delivery of the ERDF in England as the Managing Authority<sup>2</sup> (MA). Some functions have been delegated to Intermediate Bodies in several regions and cities.

The ERDF Operational Programme was originally approved by the European Commission (EC) in June 2015. The current version was updated in December 2020 to take account of the mid-programme performance review and was published [online](#) in March 2021. Funding is weighted to reflect the levelling up regional agenda and uses three geographical Categories of Region<sup>3</sup>: Less Developed (Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is the only English region in this category), Transition, and More Developed regions. The programme is organised under nine separate policy themes, known as Priority Axes<sup>4</sup>, details of these and our progress towards delivering them are set out in this report.

Funding promotes local growth activity across the country and supports businesses and policy interventions in areas such as innovation, low carbon technology and broadband. Local projects are developed by a wide range of partners from across the public and private sectors, including Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), Local Authorities, universities, research institutions, business groups and stakeholders from the voluntary and community sector.

This report summarises the progress on delivery of the ERDF Operational Programme up to 31 December 2021, which is described in more detail in the 2021 Annual Implementation Report (AIR)<sup>5</sup>.

The AIR will be published in full on the programme's website along with those from previous years at: [2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> The Operational Programme (OP) is the document setting out the priorities for how the European Structural Investment Fund will be used and how they will be administered. This document is prepared by government and agreed with the European Commission (EC). The OP includes financial targets and non-financial targets for what needs to be achieved e.g. the Priority Axis and Performance Framework targets.

<sup>2</sup> The Managing Authority is the government department that is responsible for implementation of the OP in accordance with the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Regions are placed in one of three categories on the basis of their relative prosperity:

- GDP EU average >90% = More Developed Region
- GDP EU average >75% = Transition Region
- GDP EU average <75% = Less Developed Region.

<sup>4</sup> The Operational Programme is made up of Priority Axes. These set out the detail of the priorities for ERDF investment, the types of activities that will be supported, the resources available, and the specific objectives, results and outputs to be achieved. Priority Axes bring together one or more investment priorities set out in European Union regulations that govern ERDF. All activity funded must contribute to delivering a Priority Axis.

<sup>5</sup> Each year from 2016, the MA must submit to the EC an Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for each OP covering the previous financial year. This report sets out key information on how the Programme is being implemented including: financial data, progress against results / output indicators and Performance Framework milestones / targets, a summary of evaluations undertaken, issues affecting performance and measures taken to address these.



## **Covid-19 and the ERDF Programme**

DLUHC has continued working actively with stakeholders to ensure the ERDF programme was able to adapt as the pandemic continued to affect delivery in 2021

The MA continued to take steps to simplify delivery and enable projects to repurpose and better support businesses and areas impacted most by Covid-19. Our range of administrative simplifications includes more flexibility on:

- Deliverables and performance.
- Payment of claims and related evidence.
- Payment of salaries and overheads.
- Enabling projects costs to fund new delivery models and online activity.

Examples of how projects adapted to support the national response to pandemic include:

- SoLSTICE has helped the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and Spirit Healthcare to provide digital remote monitoring support for vulnerable patients with respiratory and heart failure conditions from their homes. Funding has helped Spirits Digital's remote monitoring platform CliniTouch Vie to be completed nearly two months sooner than expected by the NHS. The technology connects patients and nurses delivering care easily and safely and flags to medical teams quickly when a person exhibits deterioration so they can intervene earlier.
- SIGHT a, business support programme developed by the University of Portsmouth, is providing help and guidance to businesses in the healthcare technology sector. Exhalation Technologies Ltd has been supported to identify lab space for rapid trial development opportunities of Covid-19 related technologies. They are also working with several companies to explore the accelerated trial of technologies at Portsmouth Technologies Trials Unit to help fight the pandemic.

The programme continued to undertake initiatives such as the Welcome Back Fund initiative to enable England to combat the effects of the pandemic. The fund provided councils across England with a share of £50m to support the safe return to high streets and help build them back better from the crisis and a further £6m to support coastal communities.

The photograph below demonstrates how Dudley Council focused funding from the Welcome Back Fund on implementing temporary public realm changes across the town centres of Halesowen, Stourbridge, and Dudley. Works supported through the fund included widening of footpaths, addition of AstroTurf alongside footpaths, planter installation and pop-up parks. These changes saw high streets become far more pedestrian friendly.



DLUHC has continued to work actively with stakeholders during 2021 to ensure strong delivery of programme objectives and targets linked to local economic plans. As well as supporting the agreement of new projects, the Department's regional Programme Delivery Teams (PDTs) have continued to dedicate significant resources to existing projects, to ensure a strong focus on delivery of 2023 outputs, outcomes, and expenditure PF targets against agreed profiles.

The final economic and impact evaluation of the programme was delayed due to the pandemic, as was the publication of the reports associated with previous phases of the evaluation; this activity will now take place in 2022.

In 2021, projects continued to undertake project level evaluations upon completion, and these are published on GOV.UK, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-european-regional-development-fund-2014-to-2020>

### **Overall Progress Towards Contracting the Programme**

ERDF levers local and national investment from both the public and private sectors and complements domestic growth programmes.

Projects are developed in response to published calls<sup>6</sup> for funding applications. The first calls were published in March 2015 and have continued throughout the programme. A full list of projects funded can be found on the: ['Useful Resources'](#) page of the programme's website.

By the end of 2021, 1,088 projects with a total eligible expenditure worth over £6.28bn, including over £3.023bn ERDF, had been approved. By region this equates to 95% in the Less Developed, 91% in the Transition, and 94% of the More Developed regions' allocations.

---

<sup>6</sup> A call is an open invitation for applicants to submit proposals against a published call specification.



At the end of the year, a further 57 applications were undergoing appraisal with a total value of £71.4m. The contracting of the full value of this pipeline of applications would bring the programme's total commitments to 96% of the programme value. However, based on our experience of running the programme to date it is unlikely that all these projects will be contracted.

The MA is committed to fully realising the value of the programme and contracting the pipeline remains a priority. If required, the MA will assess the best mechanisms to ensure any unallocated funding is invested in the later stages of the Programme.

## **Overall Progress Towards Priority Axis and Performance Framework Targets**

The programme has a range of targets that DLUHC has agreed with the EC which reflect the objectives of ERDF in England and its planned impacts. Key targets are contained within a Performance Framework (PF), broken down into the separate Priority Axes (PA) of the programme.

The programme is already on track to deliver most PF targets by the end of the programme in December 2023 and actions are in place to address those where progress has been slower than expected.

Based on committed and pipeline projects (applications yet to be contracted), the programme is already expected to meet or exceed its 2023 non-financial output PF targets<sup>7</sup> except for the More Developed Region PA5 and the PA8 Transition Region targets. DLUHC will look to discuss the position with the European Commission as part of any future Programme modifications.

As regard to financial targets, the programme is set to achieve all the 2023 financial targets assuming the current pipeline of projects is contracted. The contracting of pipeline projects is a priority for DLUHC.

The MA recognises though that Covid-19 has impacted the ability of some projects to deliver against their contracted commitments and continues to closely monitor the situation.

**Progress for each Priority Axis is set out below:**

### **Priority Axis 1 – Promoting Research & Innovation**

This Priority Axis aims to strengthen research, technological development, and innovation. As of the end of 2021 the following has been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
292	£1,278.89m	107.11%	107.38%	93.97%

<sup>7</sup> In some instances, these are not fully met but exceed the 85% threshold below which the European Commission may consider applying penalties.





Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
1	£3m	2	£2.01m

Excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework financial and non-financial targets expected to be met in each CoR.

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
<b>Expenditure declared in claims to EU</b>	£60.12m	£210.0m	£359.11m	£629.23m
<b>Number of Enterprises Receiving Support</b>	584	4,601	14,861	20,046

The continuing Covid-19 restrictions have had an adverse impact on projects, particularly delegated grant schemes where potential SME beneficiaries were more focused on survival rather than embarking on research and development activity. Some projects have found it difficult to attract SMEs for innovation grants or it was impossible to work face to face with SMEs and so were unable to adhere to their spend profiles. There are signs that this activity will recover during 2022.



The Brownfield Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC), established by the University of Wolverhampton, provides support to Black Country SMEs involved in brownfield remediation and redevelopment. This support helps bring more brownfield sites back into economic use, encouraging greater levels innovation and R & D.

BRIC offers free, innovative, bespoke support to Black Country SMEs who require assistance with any aspect of brownfield remediation and regeneration.

### **THE BROWNFIELD RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE (BRIC)**

ERDF Support: £2.17 million





## Priority Axis 2 – Enhancing access to, and use and quality of ICT

This Priority Axis aims to enhance access to, use of and quality of information and communication technologies. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
42	£162.06m	99.22%	91.84%	89.78%

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0.00m	1	£0.69m

The MA is confident that 2023 PF targets will be met.

Output Indicators	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
Expenditure declared in claims to EU	£17.03m	£10.31m	£53.44m	£80.78m
Additional businesses with broadband access of at least 30Mbps	2,184	-	-	1,824
Number of Enterprises Receiving Support	-	1,010	4,680	5,690

The Managing Authority anticipates that all Category of Regions' PF output targets will be met if there are no further economic shocks to the economy.



Digital Enterprise 2 helps SMEs in the Leeds City Region gain a competitive edge by offering an innovative package of support to improve digital capabilities as they look to scale up and improve productivity and awareness.

Delivered by Leeds City Council, the project (and it's predecessor 'Digital Enterprise' project) have helped many local businesses, including Elland based FeTu (pictured). FeTu were awarded £7,000 to upgrade their digital technology and help them bring their innovative product, the FeTu Reticulate, to market.

### **DIGITAL ENTERPRISE 2**

ERDF Support: £10.46 million (plus £4.23 million for original project)





### Priority Axis 3 – Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs

This Priority Axis aims to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

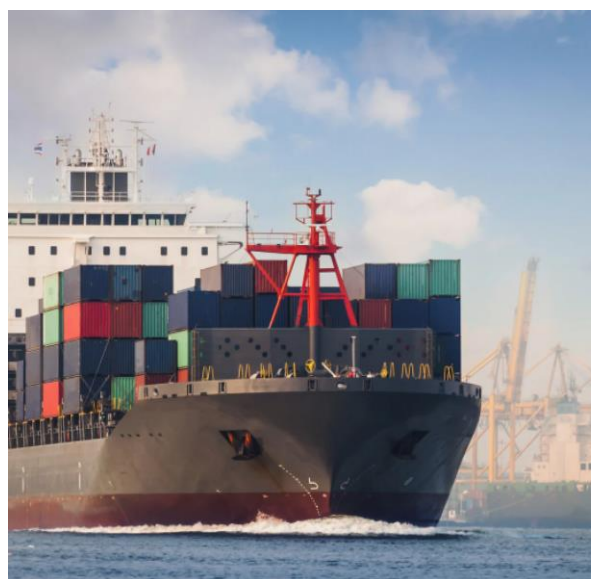
Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
427	£2,811.91m	103.64%	117.89%	117.20%

Excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework financial and non-financial targets expected to be met in all CoR.

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0.0m	33	£33.48m

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
Expenditure declared in claims to EU	£119.44m	£485.73m	£977.13m	£1,582.3m
Number of Enterprises Receiving Support	6,603	24,176	57,535	88,314

Due to Covid-19, a more cautious approach has been noted in terms of projects' proposed outputs. As a result, there is a dip in both contracted outputs but targets are still expected to be met.



The Internationalisation Fund, delivered by the Department for International Trade, provides eligible businesses with match funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 to help them to expand into new markets and create new jobs.

Grants can be used for many activities, including market research, IP (intellectual property) advice, translation services, international social media/SEO, trade fairs, independent market visits, consultancy and other international commercial services.

#### **INTERNATIONALISATION FUND**

ERDF Support: £40 million







## Priority Axis 4 – Supporting the Shift towards a Low Carbon Economy in all Sectors

This Priority Axis aims to support the shift towards a low-carbon economy across all sectors. As of the end of 2020 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
165	£1,141.49m	123.09%	93.973%	89.77%

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0.0m	14	£25.93m

Excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework financial and non-financial targets expected to be met in all CoR,

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
<b>Expenditure declared in claims to EU</b>	£71.23m	£106.76m	£355.21m	£533.20m
<b>Number of Enterprises Receiving Support</b>	532	2,504	6,019	9,055
<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG</b>	9,816	24,919	104,861	139,596

A number of projects in the pipeline have not progressed impacting on our ability to achieve 2023 PF financial targets. Whilst we are looking to recycle funding to well performing projects the short fall will need to be considered as part of our 2022 operational programme modification.



BEE Anglia has been driving growth in the low carbon economy across Norfolk and Suffolk since 2016. The project has supported SMEs, like Precision Refrigeration Ltd. (pictured), to implement business energy efficiency initiatives through free business advice and the provision of grants.

Beneficiaries deliver energy efficiency savings, reduce carbon emissions and benefit from reduced operating costs, competitiveness, business growth and increased resilience.

**BUSINESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BEE) ANGLIA**

ERDF Support: £4.16 million







## Priority Axis 5 – Promoting Climate Change Adaption, Risk Prevention & Management

This Priority Axis aims to promote climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
28	£157.18m	156.55%	123.93%	124.85%

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0m	0	£0m

Excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework financial and non-financial targets expected to be met except the non-financial target in the More Developed Region.

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
Expenditure declared in claims to EU	£3.21m	£34.39m	£20.59m	£58.19m
Percentage of planned schemes in place	100%	100%	100%	-
Businesses & properties with reduced flood risk	0	424	152	576

The number SME's benefiting from protection in the More Developed Region is limited based on the location of the need, as a result it is unlikely to meet the non-financial PF target. The MA is considering how best to manage this shortfall.



This project, delivered by Scarborough Borough Council, sees important upgrades to the aged pier structures at Whitby Harbour to improve their structural condition and reduce the likelihood of future flooding at this key tourism location.

The investment and work undertaken will protect coastal communities in the area for years to come and reduce the likelihood of future of flooding to properties and businesses in the town centre of Whitby.

### WHITBY PIERS COAST PROTECTION SCHEME

ERDF Support: £2.7 million





## Priority Axis 6 – Preserving & Protecting the Environment & Promoting Resource Efficiency

This Priority Axis aims to preserve and protect the environment and promote resource efficiency. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
51	£108.71m	104%	84.74%	71.72%

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0m	7	£9.29m

Good progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework non-financial targets expected to be met in all CoR. There are challenges in terms of the financial targets for the More Developed and Transition Regions. The MA is considering how best to manage this shortfall through the operational programme modification in 2022.

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
<b>Expenditure declared in claims to EU</b>	£8.18m	£11.30m	£28.37m	£47.85m
<b>Surface area of habitats supported to a better conservation status</b>	151ha	137ha	454ha	742ha

The investments in the priority axis are making a significant contribution to 2023 PF non-financial targets. There are short falls in 2023 PF financial targets particularly in the more developed region due to a number of SUD applications being withdrawn.

Within the Less Developed region, the Performance Framework output is being significantly overachieved due to the Growing Goss project. Natural England are improving the nature conservation value of this important 577-hectare estate, which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



This National Trust led project is helping to tackle significant erosion damage in the much-loved Lakeland fells, protecting vulnerable fell habitats and helping local tourism.

Funding is being provided for work on some of the most eroded paths across the Lake District National Park, including routes on popular, iconic mountains such as Scafell Pike, Helvellyn and Blencathra. Recreational hot spots such as Coniston, Buttermere and Ambleside (pictured before and after) are also receiving support.

### **FIX THE FELLS, CUMBRIA**

ERDF Support: £1.5 million



## **Priority Axis 7 – Sustainable Transport in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly**

This Priority Axis aims to promote sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures and is only available in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
10	£297.92m	464.39%	-	-

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0m	0	£0m

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
Expenditure declared in claims to EU	£39.22m	-	-	£39.22m
Road length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0	-	-	0

The Major project (A30 Carland Cross to Chiverton Cross (Construction Phase) project) contracted at the beginning of 2021 and is on-site on site and making good progress to deliver the spend and output required by the programme in 2023.





This Isles of Scilly based project aims to prove the concept of a replicable low carbon EV charging and car-sharing model for wider roll out suitable for remote communities, thus encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles.

It will provide a network of 27 electric vehicle charging points installed across all five islands, providing the necessary infrastructure of electricity grid network connections to support the transition to electric vehicles. It is also set to feature a car sharing element, electric cargo bike hire and an electric community bus.

### **ISLES OF SCILLY GO EV SMART**

ERDF Support: £2.4 million



HM Government



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## **Priority Axis 8 – Promoting Social Inclusion & Combating Poverty & any Discrimination**

This Priority Axis aims to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and discrimination. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
43	£46m	101.86%	95.3%	98.8%

Calls Launched in 2021	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	£0	0	£0

Despite one CLLD project being withdrawn, based on contracted projects the priority axis continues to be on course to meet its PF targets. Excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis, with all 2023 Performance Framework financial and non-financial targets expected to be met in all CoR.

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
<b>Expenditure declared in claims to EU</b>	£2.65m	£1.31m	£3.98m	£7.94m
<b>Number of local development strategies agreed</b>	4	4.5	12.5	21
<b>Number of Enterprises receiving support</b>	109	5	74	188



Some of the most disadvantaged communities in Newcastle and Wallsend are being helped to develop their entrepreneurial and business ideas. North of Tyne CLLD were awarded a grant to help set up Millin Charity whose 'A Chance to Trade' project supports new businesses, specifically owned by women who face a multitude of barriers, to start-up.

Businesses owned by local women, often from diverse ethnic minority backgrounds, have access to accredited support, enterprise workshops and tailored business advice. Lucia (pictured) has been supported in setting up her fashion business and is now selling her products on Facebook and Etsy.

### **NORTH OF TYNE CLLD**

ERDF Support: £896,580



CLLD projects have been heavily affected by the pandemic which has resulted in significant delivery challenges. Many local project delivery organisations immediately amended their activities to deal with Covid-19 related community needs which meant that CLLD activity was either paused or unable to continue. It is also proving difficult for delivery momentum to be rebuilt.

## **Priority Axis 9 – Technical Assistance**

This Priority Axis aims to help access to the programme ensuring that the activities that can be funded are delivered effectively and efficiently. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:

The MA Technical Assistance (TA) drawdown moved to the 4% methodology in December 2020 with the approach reflected against the December 2020 and May 2021 ECPA's.

In total there are 48 TA projects 26 of those projects are now closed with the remaining 21 projects due to close between now and the end of December 2023.

Good progress was made for this PA and, based on contracted and pipeline applications and excellent progress is being made to deliver this Priority Axis. The MA does not anticipate any underspend on its TA budget

There are no 2023 PF targets for this Priority Axis.

## **Priority Axis 10 – Supporting the implementation of Local Economic Covid-19 Recovery Action Plans**

This Priority Axis aims to help local areas respond to the Covid-19 economic crisis. As of the end of 2021 the following had been achieved:



Total Projects Supported	Eligible Spend	Percentage of Regions' Total Allocation		
		Less Developed	Transition	More Developed
1	£107.88m	189.5%	137.38%	103.54%

Calls Launched in 2020	Value of Calls	New Applications Under Appraisal	Value Under Appraisal
0	-	-	-

Output Indicator	Achievements to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020			
	Less Developed	Transition	More Developed	Total
<b>Expenditure declared in claims to EU</b>	£0m	£0m	£0m	£0m
<b>Number of entities supported in combating or counteracting the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic</b>	2	68	244	314

A programme modification for a new PA10 has been approved by the EC to reflect new flexibilities made available as a result of Covid-19. The only project, approved in October 2020, under this PA is a £51m Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSSF) managed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) through the Cities and Local Growth Unit. After further Covid-restriction measures, the project was further extended in October 2021 by another nine months until June 2022 and an extra £57m, which brought the total value of the project to c.£107.9m ERDF. The project title was changed to the 'Welcome Back Fund' (WBF) to better reflect the nature of activities.

## **Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments are a sustainable and efficient way to invest in the growth and development of both individuals and enterprises. They support a range of development objectives and benefit of a wide range of organisations. European Union funds lever in additional public and private contributions with returns reused for further investments. Major advantages of financial instruments are:

- Leverage of resources and increased impact of European Structural Investment Fund programmes.
- Efficiency and effectiveness due to the revolving nature of funds.
- Moving away from "grant dependency" culture.
- Better quality of projects as the investment must be repaid.
- Access to a wider range of financial tools for policy delivery and private sector expertise, d
- Attract private sector support and financing for public policy objectives.

The main financial products offered by financial instruments are loans, guarantees, equity and quasi-equity.

By the end of 2021, the programme had eleven financial instrument projects with commitments worth £531.8m ERDF following acceptance of their ex-ante assessments (which established the market case for each) by the MA.





These comprise six **access to finance** fund of funds:

- the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, a £402m project utilising £140.4m ERDF;
- the Midlands Engine Investment Fund, a £266.1m project utilising £78.5m ERDF;
- the London SME Fund, a £100m project utilising £35m ERDF;
- the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Fund, a £40m project utilising £32m ERDF;
- the Low Carbon Innovation Fund II, a £22.56m project utilising £11.2m ERDF;
- and
- the North East Fund, a £140m project utilising £58.8m ERDF.

and five **urban development funds**:

- the Greater Manchester Fund of Funds, a £120m project utilising £60m ERDF;
- the Mayor of London's Energy Efficiency Fund, a £102.4m project utilising £51.2m ERDF;
- the Liverpool UDF, a £43.2m project utilising £25m ERDF;
- the Cheshire & Warrington UDF, a £40m project utilising £20m ERDF; and
- the Lancashire UDF, a £25m project utilising £15m ERDF.

Overall, by the end of December 2021, £389.9m (€440m) ERDF had been drawn down by financial instruments.



The Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) provides commercially focused finance through Small Business Loans, Debt Finance, Proof of concept and Equity Finance funds.

Among the many firms supported through MEIF are Earth Rover, a Shropshire start-up which aims to use cutting-edge technologies to help farmers improve crop yields. The finance helped Earth Rover launch their first product, a 'crop scouting' system which predicts the size and timing of harvests.

#### **MIDLANDS ENGINE INVESTMENT FUND**

ERDF Support: £78.5 million



### **Payment Applications to the European Commission**

The Contracting Authority submitted 4 payment applications in 2021. Overall, since 2015 the total eligible expenditure submitted to the EC for reimbursement cumulative up to 31st December 2021 is 53% (€3,496m) and the ERDF drawn down cumulative is 65% (€2,383m) of the ERDF programme value.