



**European Union**

European Structural  
and Investment Funds

**GPB20220927 Item 5(i)**  
**European Structural and Investment Funds**  
**2014 - 2020**

**Growth Programme for England**

**Minutes of the Growth Programme Board**  
**11:00 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**Microsoft Teams**

---

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Progress on Programmes\* *Agenda items marked \* were*
3. National Sub-Committee Review *accompanied by Board papers*
4. Minutes of March Meeting and  
progress on Actions\*
5. Items for information\*
6. Any other business

---

**Minutes**

**Item 1: Welcome and introductions**

1. **Jenny Dibden** welcomed Board Members and substitutes and advised that apologies received would be recorded in the minutes. She also advised that the meeting was being recorded and transcribed.
2. **Jenny Dibden** asked the board for any conflicts of interest, although she added that she felt there was nothing on the agenda that would require members to recuse themselves.
3. **Jenny Dibden** invited board members to say if they had anything they wished to include under Items for Information. No items were received. She also invited members to put questions in the chat or put their Teams' hand up.
4. **Jenny** then introduced the Progress on Programmes item and handed over to DWP colleagues.

## Item 2: Progress of Programmes

### European Social Fund (ESF)

5. **Emma Kirkpatrick** introduced the ESF update. She highlighted that the paper and slide deck had been/would be shared with members and also flagged the fluctuation in programme value due to changes in the value of sterling. She also stated that the MA were confident of meeting N+3 this year. She then handed over to Mark to provide more detail.
6. **Mark Burns** presented the KPI dashboard report for ESF delivery, summarising the key points from the circulated progress update paper. He informed members that 97% of the fund was committed and 66% reimbursed. This was detailed in the slide presented along with other relevant details.
7. **Emma Kirkpatrick** then covered underperformance and PCRs, delving into the two types of underperformance - slippage and non-delivery. MA have carried out an in-depth analysis on the reasons for under performance across all projects. Some projects (those outside the 15% tolerance) will be invited to submit PCRs – both in terms of spend and deliverables.
8. In terms of spending the money coming back in through those underperformance measures, there is an open call for projects wanting to extend or increase in size and they are having conversations with the DWP CFO to see if there is more activity that can be funded in that space. MA also looking at the Fast Care draft regulations through the EC (available on a flat rate and on retrospective basis).
9. **Emma Kirkpatrick** then invited members to come forward with any questions.
10. **Emily Kent** asked about how DWP will manage resourcing levels required to go through all PCRs quickly enough. **Emma** stated they were staggering when these came in (around 200 will be split across 4 tranches), targeting 60 days in terms of a turnaround target (as an absolute maximum) and utilising additional resource. Need these PCRs to be robust to minimise need for questions (back and forth). Aiming to get as much of this work done as possible by the end of 2022.
11. **Peter Matthijs** asked for state of play on TASCO and if it would be finalised before end of year so it could be included in N+3. He also flagged exchange rate issues and also mention of a buffer to help alleviate any negative impact. On Fast Care, some responses to questions are now with Peter and he will share with Emma and colleagues following the meeting. **EK** responded in terms of TASCO 180 claims caught up in this and all but 4 issues resolved. Liaising with MA on these on additional evidence and confident we will meet N+3 on this by end of year. With regards to the buffer at Programme Level this sits at around £25m which will not be allocated out to projects. They are anticipating a level of overprogramming as a whole in the programme and MA looking at this with DWP co-financing

12. **Mark** mentioned that today was the 60 day deadline for the ECs payment of ECPA 23 and asked Peter if he had any knowledge or news about that. **Peter** responded that he did understand, from the EC financial unit, that payment would be made at the deadline. That said they are not now understanding why it hasn't been done and think there may be an issue which they are looking into.

### **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

13. **David Malpass** presented the ERDF Programme Update item, talking through the paper and accompanying programme delivery dashboard which were shared with members ahead of and immediately after the meeting.
14. As part of this update, **Simon Jones** presented slides on the Performance Framework - this does not look at individual performance of the financial and output indicators but looks at them together as a coefficient i.e., 50% progress on financial and output targets equals a 100% coefficient. He also confirmed that none of these impacts on existing projects. An update was then provided on C1 (businesses supported) performance in Transition areas, in response to a request at the last meeting. Further information on performance around C34 (greenhouse gas emissions) will be provided at the next Performance National Sub-Committee and GPB meetings (**part of ACTION 2206/07 carried over to next meetings**). A paper was circulated with more detail. **Pernille** made the point that she was surprised the MA assumed almost 60% in more developed areas was going to FIs in the operational programme. She also questioned whether there was a larger rural economy in the transitional areas. Simon agreed to look at the rural geography justification and follow up offline with Pernille.
15. **David Malpass** asked for questions on the general ERDF update. **Pernille** flagged that we may be in for a difficult 2023 given exchange rate changes following the fiscal event. David mentioned that the key point was around what we are drawing down (on ERDF a lot of the money has already been drawn down). The MA will be looking at this though and happy to have a further conversation offline.
16. **Paul Green** asked if case studies from the Welcome Back Fund could be shared publicly as they would be a great resource for UKSPF and other areas, **David** said he would get them published and include something on the Welcome Back Fund as part of the Communications update at the next meeting. **Tom Wood** added that the Welcome Back Fund Summative Assessment final report, which includes a number of good local case studies, had been completed/submitted and once approval was received, this would be published on GOV.UK.

17. **Guus** thanked Simon for the excellent paper but remarked that it was interesting that when comparing FIs and other business support, non-Financial Instruments appeared to present better value for money.

18. **Alison Gordon** asked if we had a clearer position on possible slippage on performance and closure. **David** responded that a lot of projects are moving expenditure to the right and a high number of projects are now closing after June 2023. But teams are being diligent in working with projects on having clarity around reasons for any move in expenditure and on project delivery. It's not an easy situation and it is a moving picture but MA remains focussed on maximising spend within the programme.

**ACTION 2209/01: Welcome Back Fund case studies to be published online and to feature as part of the Annual Communications update at the December GPB.**

#### **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

19. **Emma Friend** presented the EAFRD update, including details on spend and payments. She also covered her action from the previous meeting as part of this item (around how funds returned to the programme have been spent).

20. **Jan Thornton** requested further explanation of the movement of funds highlighted in the presentation. **Emma** explained it was more of administrative process to help use remaining money most efficiently – this is from an RDPE pot which has been held aside to help with projects that are continuing.

21. **Pernille** asked following on from this, if this was why committed funding remains same. **Emma** confirmed that this was the case.

22. **Jenny** thanked **Emma** for her presentation.

#### **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**

23. **Harry Stirk** presented the EMFF slides/paper to members

24. **Pernille** thanked **Harry** and asked two questions - how are they were going to ensure underspend is used and on evaluations asked if an update could be provided to the GPB? **Harry**, on the underspend, stated that they would be exploring options, particularly with projects still operating where their costs may have increased. On the evaluation, there would be more to share on this, possibly at the next GPB (**Action 2206/03 carried over**).

#### **Item 3: Minutes of June meeting and progress on Actions**

25. Tom took members through outstanding actions from the previous meeting – action 2206/03, (flagged above within the EMFF update item) will be carried over to the next meeting. Action 2206/04 is going to form part of the ERDF final evaluation report which is set to be published in January 2023. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions element of action 2206/07 was discussed earlier and will be covered at the next PNSC and GPB meetings.

26. The minutes were accepted by members to be a true record of the meeting.

#### **Standing Items 4: Items for Information**

##### **National Sub-Committee Report**

27. **Tom Wood** flagged that there are just 2 remaining NSCs; the Performance Sub Committee (PNSC) which met on 15<sup>th</sup> September and the Evaluation National Sub-Committee (ENSC) which will be meeting this week on the 29<sup>th</sup> September (with invitations extended to members of the PNSC to attend). **Pernille** requested more detailed updates from each of these NSCs at the next meeting.

##### **Written Procedures**

#### **28. Two Written Procedures relating to ESF**

Firstly the ESF Programme Modification was issued to members for approval by written procedure on 27<sup>th</sup> July with responses due on 10<sup>th</sup> August. EC provided formal a response on 10<sup>th</sup> August – negotiations are ongoing. Once the final position on the proposal has been agreed the changes will be formally submitted. Secondly ESF Equality and Sustainable Development Mainstreaming report, was sent out for approval by written procedure on 29<sup>th</sup> July with responses due by 12<sup>th</sup> August. No objections received so the proposal was approved – will be sent to the EC as part of the annual regulatory requirement.

#### **Item 6: Any Other Business**

29. There were no items raised under AOB – **Jenny Dibden** confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 11.00-13:30, and invited members to express preferences around meeting in person, on teams or a hybrid and on either Wolverhampton or London in terms of venue. These will be tallied up / members contacted and confirmation shared ahead of next meeting.

**Meeting closed: 13:00**

## Annex A

### List of agreed actions from September 2022 Growth Programme Board meeting

No.	Action	Assigned to:
2209/01	Welcome Back Fund case studies to be published online and to feature as part of the Annual Communications update at the December GPB	Rob Martell, DLUHC

### Carried over from previous meeting

No.	Action	Assigned to:
2206/03	EMFF colleagues to report to the next GPB on high level findings from the programme evaluation.	EMFF colleagues
2206/07	ERDF MA to provide a report on progress of C1 and greenhouse gas emissions (C34) output targets in transition regions to next Performance National Sub-Committee meeting. <b>(note – C1 element complete, just C34 element carried over)</b>	Simon Jones



## European Union

European Structural  
and Investment Funds

## GPB20220927 Item 5(i) European Structural and Investment Funds 2014 - 2020

### Growth Programme for England

#### Chair:

	Sector/Organisation Representing	Attending (Y/N)	Substitute For
<b>Jenny Dibden</b> Director, Community Investment and Funding Services	DLUHC	Y	

#### Board Members (full and advisory):

	Sector/Organisation Representing	Attending (Y/N)	Substitute For
<b>David Malpass</b> Communities and European Programmes	DLUHC	Y	
<b>Helen Millne</b> The Women's Organisation	Voluntary/Community Sector	Y	
<b>Councillor Sir Albert Bore</b> Birmingham City Council	Local Authorities	Y	
<b>Councillor Philip Atkins</b> Staffordshire County Council	Local Authorities	Y	
<b>Carol Botten</b> Network for Europe	Voluntary/Community Sector	Y	
<b>Tom Winters</b> East Devon District Council	Local Authorities	Y	
<b>Alison Gordon</b> Greater Manchester Combined Authority	LEPs	Y	Simon Nokes
<b>Jennifer Gunn</b> LEP Network	LEPs	Y	
<b>Dr Huw Edwards</b> Thames Valley Berkshire	LEPs	Y	

<b>Pernille Kousgaard</b> Liverpool City Region	SUD	Y	
<b>Guus Muijzers</b> European Commission	EC	Y	
<b>Peter Matthijs</b> European Commission	EC	Y	
<b>Joanne Knight</b> European Commission	EC	Y	
<b>Janet Thornton</b> Rural and Farming Network	Rural	Y	
<b>Richard Powell</b> Chair Wild Anglia	Local Nature Partnerships	Y	
<b>Emma Kirkpatrick</b> ESF Division	DWP	Y	
<b>Simon Jones</b> Communities and European Programmes	DLUHC	Y	
<b>Sarah Bennett</b> European Programmes	GLA	Y	Alex Conway
<b>Emily Kent</b> European Programmes	Cornwall Council	Y	
<b>Richard Davies</b> European Programmes	BEIS	Y	
<b>Paul Green</b> Local Government Association	Local Government	Y	
<b>Emma Friend</b> EAFRD Division	DEFRA	Y	
<b>Alex Garcia-Scott</b> EMFF	Marine Management Organisation	Y	
<b>Harry Stirk</b> EMFF	Marine Management Organisation	Y	



**Additional Attendees / Observers:**

Name	Sector/Organisation	
<b>Mark Burns</b> ESF Division	DWP	Presenter
<b>Pete Long</b> ESF Division	DWP	Presenter
<b>Tom Wood</b> Communities and European Programmes	DLUHC	Presenter
<b>Sean Hughes</b> Growth Programme Board Secretariat	DLUHC	Growth Programme Board Secretariat
<b>Pauline Williams</b> ESF Division	DWP	Observer
<b>Caroline Hyde</b> ESF Division	DWP	Observer

**Apologies:**

	Sector/Organisation	Sending a Substitute?
<b>Simon Nokes</b> Greater Manchester Combined Authority	LEPs	Yes, Alison Gordon
<b>James Newman</b> Sheffield City Region	LEPs	No
<b>John Lathom</b> Coventry University	Higher Education	No
<b>Rob Martell</b> Communities and European Programmes	DLUHC	No