

Enterprise M3 Board Meeting
30 November 2017
EU Programme Update – Item 18

Members are asked to NOTE the progress on the EU programme.

1. General Update

- 1.1. To date, 85% of our ERDF allocation is published, 25.7% contracted, 11% in the pipeline and the first ERDF projects have started spending. 38% of our ESF allocation has been committed to procurement, 33% contracted, 7% in the pipeline. The remaining of our EAFRD allocation has been agreed to put across the current 3 open calls bringing to 100% to be published, 14% projects contracted. In addition, we have several projects either in the pipeline and going through assessment.
- 1.2. Our new ERDF Project Officer, Susan George, started on the 30th October 2017.
- 1.3. Following the successful first ESIF Practitioners meeting we have continued to have positive engagement with Projects. We were pleased that one of our ESF projects, led by WSX Enterprise, presented given at the most recent ESIF Committee. The Committee were very interested to hear how the ESIF funding is starting to make a real difference to people's lives.
- 1.4. We are pleased to see two of our projects have been highlighted as case studies by DCLG.
- 1.5. Official consultation on the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund is due to start in early 2018.

2. European Social Fund (ESF)

- 2.1. We have four ESF contracts that have been signed, two of these under the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) opt-in and two under the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) opt-in.
- 2.2. We were pleased to receive two applications under the two Digital Skills Calls that closed in July, both have made it through Outline Assessment phase and have proceeded to Full Application stage with recommendations from the ESIF committee.
- 2.3. The next ESF direct call specifications, below, that were due to be launched in Autumn 2017 but have been delayed.
 - Construction Skills for the unemployed worth £1m
 - Development of Higher Level Skills Capacity (apprenticeship) worth £450k
 - Retraining for a Fuller Working Life worth £1m
 - STEM skills worth £500k

3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- 3.1. We were pleased to receive two Outline Applications for our “Business Scale Up Support Programme.” These two competitive applications are currently being assessed by DCLG.

- 3.2. We have two new specifications for a 'Digital Enabling Technologies Knowledge to Market Accelerator' £600k ERDF and a 'Quantum Supply Chain Initiative' £2.5k ERDF ready to be published on the 8th December 2017. These take forward the work being undertaken as part of the Science and Innovation Audit and we are delighted that we have had agreement from our neighbouring LEPs to publish them as multi-LEP specifications that mirror the Innovation South geography.
- 3.3. We are intending to republish our Access to Finance and 5G specifications under PA3 and Digital Support specifications under PA2 as both closed on the 31st October. Despite having applications submitted for both specifications neither project passed the Outline Assessment phase for different reasons. We will do further technical assistance work with potential applicants and hopefully some of these will be successful going forward. The 'Digital support' specification will be increased to a value of £1.3m to commit the remaining funding under PA2.
- 3.4. We will also be looking to promote further our Internationalisation Specification which is due to close on 12th January 2018 as we have not yet received an application.
- 3.5. We are currently planning how to allocate the remainder of our ERDF Allocation. The proposed final Call Window to publish any new specifications is in March 2018. There are various options available to us including developing new specifications, participating in proposed national calls or increasing the value of our existing projects in order to ensure we fully commit our allocation.

4. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- 4.1. In addition to the four projects that were contracted under the First Round of EAFRD funding, we now have increased the funding available under the Open Round of calls with the remaining of our allocation put under in Rural Business Development as part of the 'top-up' exercise:
 - Tourism infrastructure - £881,000
 - Food and Drink Processing - £881,000
 - Rural Business Development Grant - £2.07million
- 4.2. There are 3 applications going through the assessment process.
- 4.3. The final deadline for EoI has been pushed back to 31 May 2018. We are planning two events across the Enterprise M3 area to generate more applications from rural businesses with a small pot of money now released from DEFRA to contribute towards the cost of these events.

5. Funding

- 5.1. We are in the process of submitting our quarterly claims for the ERDF Technical Assistance project. The ERDF Partnership Agreement is signed by all parties.

6. ESIF Committee

- 6.1. The next ESIF Committee has been scheduled for 24th January 2018

Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George
8th November 2017