

**Enterprise M3 Board**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**EU Programme Update - Item 17**

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

**1. General Update**

- 1.1. Two promotional videos for ERDF and ESF with case studies and success stories from contracted projects should be ready by the end of March. We will manage their publication launch post Brexit to promote the fact that the EU funding is guaranteed until December 2020.
- 1.2. Managing Authorities continue to plan for a 'deal' or 'no deal' scenario, in the case of 'no deal', programmes will become a domestic version of ERDF/ESF with some simplifications expected on audits & branding requirements.
- 1.3. The next ESIF Committee will be held on 29 April 2019.
- 1.4. There will be some reserve funds announced for ESF and ERDF in the Autumn 2019.

**2. European Social Fund (ESF)**

- 2.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 52,8% of our ESF allocation is published including 30.8% contracted, 4,4% in the pipeline, 11% ESF spent,
- 2.3. New ESF direct calls will open before September 2019 and will include: Digital Skills for the unemployed (re-issue) - £400k ESF - £1.2m ESF, Social Inclusion, 3 Lots - £2m ESF, Employer owned funds for skills – £2,1m ESF, Virtual reality and online support learning - £1.8m ESF, Brokerage of Skills/Apprenticeship Hub - £825k ESF, LMI - £543k ESF. Specifications are in preparation
- 2.4. One ESF DWP opt-in call for the unemployed and inactive worth £1.2m is in preparation.
- 2.5. Our first aggregated claim for our ESF Technical Assistance project from October 2015 to June 2018 has been verified and we await payment of £22,993.

**3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

- 3.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 97% of our ERDF allocation is published, 20% of applications in process, 10,2% contracted and 8.8% ERDF spent.
- 3.2. The next round of ERDF calls continues to be delayed to avoid Brexit and should be launched around May/June. We will launch the remaining of allocation with 8 ERDF specifications for : Life Sciences - £0,5m ERDF, 5G - £0,6m ERDF, R&D extension - £0.8m ERDF, Digital Growth - £1.3m ERDF, Scale-up - £1m ERDF, Entrepreneurship & start-up - £0,8m ERDF, Finance & Growth - £5m ERDF (multi-LEP under discussion), Low Carbon Energy - Value: £2.7m ERDF.
- 3.3. Our outline application for the extension of the ERDF Technical Assistance project passed first stage. We have been invited to submit a PCR (Project Change Request) for extending the project until the end of the programming period. The value to Enterprise M3 is £125k for two years. Enterprise M3 Ltd will become the contracting body for the extension.

**4. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).**

- 4.1. 100% of allocation is published and calls are closed with 15,4% projects contracted, 110% of applications in process, 10% EAFRD spent. We are 10% over committed on EAFRD.

*Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George/Lisa Wheadon 18 March 2019*