

**Enterprise M3 Programme Management Group**

**15 July 2021**

**EU Programme Update – Item 8**

Board members are asked to **NOTE** the progress on the EU Programme.

**1. General Update**

- 1.1. The ESIF Programme and portfolio of contracted ERDF, ESF and EAFRD projects in the Enterprise M3 LEP area are guaranteed to the end delivery date of 31 December 2023. However, opportunities for new ESIF funding calls are now closed.
- 1.2. Two competitive bids were received under the recent ESF call ‘Skills support for employment for armed veterans and Families’ that closed on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
  - Application 1 led by RFEA – The Forces Employment Charity, Project name = EM3 Armed Forces Veterans and Families, Value: £1,4M.
  - Application 2 led by Recruit for Spouses Limited, Project name: EM3 Recruit for Spouses and Buildforce, Value: £400k
- 1.3. The ERDF kickstart SME grants programme for the Visitor Economy and wider SME community for Enterprise M3, Thames Valley Berkshire and Coast to Capital LEPs and Growth Hubs closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. There have been 328 grants issued totalling £1,031,299. These small grants have made a difference to our SMEs whose businesses were negatively impacted by COVID.

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

- 2.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 86.2% of our ESF allocation is published including 63.5% contracted, 29.4% spent and 10.3% in the pipeline.
- 2.2. Amion Consulting have independently evaluated the ESF technical assistance project. The summative assessment was completed at the end of May 2021. Key objectives and outputs were largely met with a slight underspending at programme level (80%). Re-investment will assist existing projects with granted extensions until the end of the programming period, 31 December 2023. All events and awareness sessions run by the Technical Assistance Team were rated ‘useful’ or ‘very good’ by 98% of attendees.

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

- 3.1. Taking into consideration the revised exchange rate, 100% of our ERDF allocation is published, 5,54% of applications are in process, 37,54% is contracted and 10% of ERDF has been spent. From the latest ERDF call, 2 projects are still going through appraisals with:
  - SME growth toolkit led by SME Wholesale Finance worth £500k
  - E-taxi worth £700k

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

- 4.1. 100% of our EM3 allocation has been published with 31.7% projects contracted, 13,4% in the pipeline and 18% spent.
- 4.2. From the last EAFRD Reserve Fund call, there is 5 remaining projects currently going through assessment totaling £600,000.

*Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George – 8 July 2021*