

Enterprise M3 Board meeting

3 February 2022

EU Programme Update – Item 16

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

1. General Update

- 1.1 We have prepared an ESIF Programme Implementation Report which highlights the achievements of the EM3 ESIF programme since 2016, including updates on the progress of each ESF, ERDF and EAFRD funded project in our area and case studies of how the funding has supported beneficiaries.
- 1.2 ESIF projects spending profiles have been affected by Brexit and the pandemics across all LEP areas. The Managing Authorities addressed the issue by providing extensions to projects that were worth it and performing well. All our EM3 projects that requested an official extension got it granted. Therefore, both spend and output profiles are expected to catch up by the end of the programming period.
- 1.3 We have received full payment for TA activities now on both ESF and ERDF. Both MAs are fully satisfied with our performance and delivery and therefore unlikely for any clawback of EU funds.
- 1.4 More information on the UKSPF is expected to be released by Central Government in March. UKSPF is being thought as a legacy of ERDF. There is a risk that less funds might come down to our area due to the focus; we need to work together to articulate the need.

2. European Social Fund (ESF)

- 2.1. 86.2% of our ESF allocation is published including 70.2% contracted and 35.2% spent. There are no more projects in the pipeline. We have 9 ESF projects contracted in the EM3 area with a range of services being partly funded through ESF and opt-in organisations providing support to employers and/or individuals for progression into work or return to employment
- 2.2. To date, the ESF programme across the Enterprise M3 area has delivered the following impact with:
 - 284 unemployed participants gaining employment
 - 259 inactive participants gaining employment or moving into job search activities
 - 214 participants gaining basic skills
 - 629 participants gaining up to level 2 qualifications
 - 350 participants gaining level 3 or above qualifications
- 2.3. Our latest approved ESF project 'EM3 Armed Forces veterans and families' lead by RFEA is currently recruiting for appointing the ESF Project Management Team liaising with schools and employers.
- 2.4. The EM3 ESF Technical Assistance Project has formally achieved a successful project closure and grant being paid in full.

3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- 3.1. EM3 have issued a number of local calls plus taken part in national calls for ERDF. The total value of ERDF calls issued is 97.3%, 36.17% of our allocation contracted with 10 projects delivering in the area, 10,7% spent. The current ERDF pipeline is 3.3% with one ERDF project pending a Grant Funding Agreement – E-Taxi worth £700K.
- 3.2. The EM3 ERDF Technical Assistance project has formally achieved a successful project closure and grant being paid in full.

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

- 4.1. 100% of our EM3 allocation has been published with 37.6% projects contracted and 20% spent. There are no more projects in the pipeline.

To date, the EAFRD programme in the EM3 area has created a total of 59 jobs, 16 new products, developed 11 techniques and created 313,400 additional day visitors and 8172 overnight visitors to the rural tourism businesses supported.

Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George – 24 January 2022