

Enterprise M3 Board Meeting

7 April 2022

EU Programme Update — Item 17

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

1. General Update

- 1.1 We have published 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. A communications campaign highlighting the support to business and promoting the achievements of the ESIF Programme is in place.
- 1.2 We hosted an online ESIF Practitioners Network meeting on 22nd March to share best practice and promote projects that will run up to the end of 2023. We were joined by 20 representatives from our portfolio of ERDF and ESF projects.
- 1.3 ESIF projects spending profiles have been delayed by Brexit and the pandemics across all LEP areas. Managing Authorities have providing extensions to projects that were performing well and all our EM3 projects that requested an official extension got it granted. Spend and output profiles are expected to catch up by the end of the programming period.
- 1.4 A Spring prospectus and funding details on the UKSPF is expected to be released by Central Government in March/April. UKSPF is being thought as a legacy of ESIF with key topics on community, places, infrastructure, skills, literacy and support to business. Funds will be allocated to districts who will be required to draw up investment plans. EM3 is working with districts to explore submitting a proposal across a wider area.

2. European Social Fund (ESF)

- 2.1. 100% 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. 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. The total value of ERDF calls issued is 100%. 40% of our allocation contracted with 10 projects delivering in the area, 10.7% spent. There are no more projects in the pipeline.
- 3.2. The E-Taxi ERDF project has signed their Grant Funding Agreement worth £700K which means that all of our ERDF projects have now been contracted.
- 3.3. To date, the ERDF programme across the Enterprise M3 area has been delivering the following impact with:
 - 1,425 SMES supported in Enterprise M3 Area
 - £533,828 worth of grants allocated to businesses
 - 50 jobs created/safeguarded
 - 1 co-operation initiated with a research institutions
 - 117 new products/services launched which are new to the market products
 - 166 new products/services launched with are new to the firm products
 - 387 estimated annual decrease of GHG (CO2 reduction)
- 3.4. 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, achieved 313,400 additional day visitors and 8172 overnight visitors to the rural tourism businesses supported.

5. AOB

- 5.1. Susan George, who has worked for EM3 for the past 4.5 years delivering our ERDF and ESF Technical Assistance Projects left EM3 on 31st March 2022 following the successful completion and closure of the ERDF and ESF Technical Assistance Projects. Kathy Vuillaume remains the contact for the ESIF Programme.

Kathy Vuillaume/Susan George
23 March 2022