



**MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2002
ROSSPARK HOTEL, KELLS, BALLYMENA**

MINUTES

1. Attendance

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Brendan Curran, (Local Government), David Hilditch, (Local Government), Raymond Ferguson, (Local Government), Pat Mallon, (Local Government), Gwen Savage, (Business) Orlaigh Quinn, (European Commission), Howard McNally, (European Commission), Nuala Kerr, (PEACE II Managing Authority) and Tony Canavan, (OFMDFM).

2. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee. In his opening remarks the Chairman welcomed the two new representatives from the Equality Sector and the Paying Authority, EAGGF/FIFG.

3.1 Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of 23 May were agreed subject to two amendments:-

Paragraph 4.6 Progress on Implementation of the BSP Programme.

Line 1 delete "*reminded*" and insert "*requested*".

Line 4 after "*Energy Infrastructure*", add "*as agreed at the last Monitoring Committee Meeting*".

3.2 Action Points/Matters Arising

The Chairman reported progress on Action Points from the last meeting. On the issue of the impact of Gap Funding on redundancy/entitlements/payments the European Commission representative informed the Committee that a request on the eligibility of redundancy costs for co-financing is currently being examined by the European Commission.

The Agri-Rural representative asked the Managing Authority to perhaps examine ways of encouraging attendance at meetings and suggested that members agree a suitable date and time for future Monitoring Committee meetings.

3.3. Notification of AOB

The Chairman introduced this new item to the Committee which gave members the opportunity to either add additional items to the Agenda or indicate if they wish to take any item earlier.

4. Progress Report on Implementation of Programme

Before discussing the Progress Report, the Chair reported on the Annual Review meeting with the European Commission which took place on Wednesday 6 November. The two main issues discussed were; the BSP Programmes Financial progress towards N+2 and performance reserve targets. The Commission recognised the work that had been undertaken by the Managing Authority to fulfil commitments made in last years meeting. The European Commission and Managing Authority also agreed to a technical adjustment to the

Programme Complement and Operational Programme financial tables which would then require approval by the Monitoring Committee either by a formal meeting or Written Procedure. The Managing Authority agreed to participate in a future Workshop organised by the Commission on the preparation of Annual Implementation Reports. The European Commission representative thanked the Managing Authority for hosting the Annual Review meeting in Belfast.

4.1 Progress Report

The Chair introduced the progress report on the implementation of the BSP Operational Programme. Members welcomed the substantive written report provided for the meeting. Members discussed the overview report from the Managing Authority, including the Review of the Application Form, Commission requirements for management and control systems and verification checks and the Structural Funds monitoring database.

The Agri-Rural representative highlighted the need for all sectors to be represented at Monitoring Committee meetings to ensure proper monitoring of progress reports and asked that the Managing Authority contact the Business representative and seek her views or comments on the Progress Report, in particular Priority 1, Economic Growth and Competitiveness.

4.2 Priority 1: Economic Growth and Competitiveness

The Chair stated that this Priority was progressing well and claims for over 100 meuros have been submitted to the European Commission. The European Commission added that the Committee may wish to revisit the indicator targets set for some of this Priority and some of the Measures.

The Trade Union representative asked for clarification on the number of applications for the Graduate Placement Scheme under

Measure 1.2, Research and Technology Development. The DETI representative agreed to follow up on this before the next meeting.

The Agri Rural representative enquired on rural applications for Measure 1.6B, Roads and Transport. The DRD representative agreed to provide this information for the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

4.3 Priority 2: Employment

Members discussed the progress on this Priority. The DEL advisor agreed to follow-up with the Trade Union representative on any delays in approval of projects due to match funding issues. The Department of Education representative provided the Committee with a verbal update of progress on implementation of Measures 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5. The Chair advised members that the Managing Authority and the Department of Education had met recently to discuss progress on implementation of these particular Measures.

The Voluntary and Community Sector representative asked for a breakdown of non-departmental projects by public bodies for Measure 2.8, Advancement of Women. The DEL advisor agreed to follow up on this up after the meeting.

4.4 Priority 3: Urban and Social Revitalisation

The Committee discussed the progress on the implementation of this Priority. The DSD advisor informed the Committee that the funding under Measure 3.2 had been fully committed.

4.5 Priority 4: Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries

The Committee discussed the progress on the implementation of Priority 4. The DARD advisor agreed to provide the Agri-Rural representative with clarification on some indicator targets figures in the Progress Report for Measures 4.6 and Measure 4.8.

4.6 Priority 5: Environment

Members discussed the progress on the implementation of this Priority.

4.7 General

Members discussed the format and content of the report and the Managing Authority agreed to look at the reports available from the Structural Funds database for possible inclusion with future progress reports. NISRA representatives agreed to provide further indicator data on outputs, results and impacts for the next progress report.

5. Mid-Term Evaluation of the BSP Operational Programme

The Chairman welcomed DTZ Piedad Consultancy to the BSP Monitoring Committee meeting and invited them to give a presentation on the Mid-Term Evaluation of the CSF and BSP Operational Programme.

The Chair advised members of the Monitoring Committee that the Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) signed off on the Project Initiation Document (PID) on 12 November. The Voluntary and Community representative asked that consideration be given to representation from individuals with expertise in the voluntary/community sector on the expert panel of advisors. The Committee agreed that ESG should consider this at its next meeting.

6. Report from CSF Monitoring Committee

The Managing Authority introduced this paper which reported on the last Community Support Framework Monitoring meeting held on 11 September 2002. The Committee noted the contents of the report.

7. Working Group Update

The Chair introduced this paper to the Committee which outlined progress on the latest developments on Working Groups.

The environment sector representative updated the Committee on the first meeting of the Environment Working Group. Members agreed to invite a representative from the Voluntary and Community Sector to join the Working Group. The Committee accepted the Group's recommendation to adopt the Ecotec Environmental Assessment as the Ex-ante update required for the BSP Programme by 31 December 2003. The Managing Authority will be asked to formally submit the update to the European Commission.

The agri/rural representative updated Members on the work of the Fisheries Working Group which had agreed Terms of Reference at the last meeting.

The Chair of the Human Resource Development Working Group updated the Committee on the work of the Group. Terms of Reference of the Group are still in draft and the PEACE II Monitoring Committee had nominated the Trade Union representative to the Working Group.

A member of the Information Society Working Group updated the Committee on the work of the Group. Members were informed that an additional representative from the agricultural sector had joined the Working Group.

The Managing Authority reported on the work of the Communication and Information Working Group. Members were advised that the Group continues to develop the CSF Communication and Information Action Plan and has appointed a CSF Information Officer on a temporary secondment from the Assembly.

The Chair of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group updated the Committee on the work of the Group and agreed that the issue of gender balance of Monitoring Committees should be revisited by the MEWG.

7.1 Working Groups: General

The Monitoring Committee agreed that specialist advisors or experts may be invited to join Working Groups where appropriate. The DSD advisor advised the Committee that members of the URBAN II Monitoring Committee would be invited to join the Working Groups at its next meeting.

Members noted the progress achieved in Working Groups since the last BSP Monitoring Committee meeting, notably the activation of the Environment Working Group and the steps being taken to move forward all six Working Groups. The Committee also noted the potential enlargement of appropriate Working Groups through participation of representatives of Community Initiative Programme; and that the Terms of Reference for the Human Resource Development and Environment Working Groups and membership of the latter will go forward for approval by the CSF Monitoring Committee.

The Chair reported to Members that Cllr Marion Smith had resigned her position from the Community Support Framework Monitoring Committee and associated Working Groups. The Chair also reminded Members that sectoral interests may be represented on Working Groups by alternates or deputies.

8. Communication and Information Action Plan for BSP

The Managing Authority introduced this paper on the Communication and Information Action Plan. The Monitoring Committee considered the content of the Action Plan and endorsed the revised document for

inclusion in the Programme Complement. The European Commission welcomed the Action Plan which the Managing Authority agreed to report on at future Monitoring Committee meetings.

9. Management of Technical Assistance

The Managing Authority outlined the contents of this paper on the Management of Technical Assistance. Members noted and endorsed the proposals set out in the paper on handling of the Technical Assistance.

10. Monitoring Committee Discussion Paper

The Chair outlined the contents of this paper on a Monitoring Committee Discussion paper produced by the Northern Ireland Centre in Europe and some members of the Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee agreed that this was a useful paper.

The Managing Authority proposed a new cycle for Monitoring Committee meetings which would mean two formal meetings per year to discuss implementation of the BSP Programme with an option on a third meeting to discuss the Annual Implementation Report.

The Monitoring Committee Members agreed that:-

- (i) the Monitoring Committee would meet in April and October of each year, starting in April 2003, with a possible third meeting in June to discuss the Annual Implementation Report, if required;
- (ii) the core agenda for future meetings of the Monitoring Committee would be as per today's meeting.

11. Any Other Business

There were no additional items.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Secretariat will contact all Permanent Members to arrange a suitable date for the next meeting in April 2003.

ANNEX A

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Members

Bill Pauley	Chair
Eugene Rooney	Deputy Chair
John McKinney	Peace II Managing Authority
(Attended For Agenda Items 1, 2 and 3 Only)	
Annie Campbell	Voluntary And Community
Ann McKernan	Equality
(Attended For Agenda Items 1, 2 and 8 Only)	
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
(Attended For Agenda Items 1, 2, and 8 Only)	
Miceal McCoy	Agri-Rural/Fisheries
Brian Wood	Environment
George O'Doherty	Paying Authority ESF
Philip Angus	Paying Authority ERDF
Pauline Keegan	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG

Observers/Advisors

Richard Hodgett	DE Advisor
Elish Clarke	DOE Advisor
Stephen Creagh	DRD Advisor
Howard Keery	DETI Advisor
Don Harley	DSD Advisor
Martin Tyrrell	NISRA
Paul Donnelly	NISRA
Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority
Eileen Kelly	DG Regio European Commission

Other Attendees

Amanda Hill	DETI
Paddy Toal	DRD
Rob Lynas	DFP
Michael Taylor	DFP
Susie McMullan	DARD

Apologies

Gwen Savage	Business
Cllr Raymond Ferguson	Local Government
Cllr Pat Mallon	Local Government
David Hilditch MLA	Local Government
Cllr Brendan Curran	Local Government
Orlaigh Quinn	European Commission
Howard McNally	European Commission
Trevor Polley	LGSFG
Nuala Kerr	SEUPB
Tony Canavan	OFMDFM

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2002

ROSSPARK HOTEL, KELLS, BALLYMENA

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Draft Minutes of Thursday 23 May 2002	Secretariat to amend minutes and issue final version	Before next meeting
Matters Arising		
Voluntary and Community representative to sit on the Environment Working Group	Environment Working Group to invite Voluntary and Community nominee to Group	Before next meeting of Working Group
Progress Report on Implementation		
General comments on report	(i) Managing Authority to contact Business Representative for comments/views on the Progress Report (ii) NISRA to provide data on output, results and impacts in future Progress Reports	Immediate Next Progress Report
Measure 1.2, Research and Technology (Graduate Placement Scheme)	DETI to follow up with Trade Union Representative on number of applications	Before Next Meeting
Measure 1.6B, Roads and Transport	DRD to provide data on rural applications	Next Meeting
Priority 2: Match Funding of Projects	DEL to follow up with Trade Union Representative	Before Next Meeting
Measure 2.8, Advancement of Women	DEL to provide data on public body applications to voluntary/community representative	Before Next Meeting
Measures 4.6 and 4.8, Indicator Target figures	DARD to clarify with the Agri Rural Representative	Before Next Meeting
Mid-term Evaluation of the BSP Operational Programme	ESG to consider voluntary and community representation on DTZ Pidea 'Expert Panel'	Next Meeting of ESG
Communication and Information Action Plan for BSP	Managing Authority to provide progress report on Communication and Information Plan at future meetings	Future Meetings
Working Groups		
Gender Balance of Monitoring Committees	MEWG to take forward	Next Meeting of MEWG