



MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2003

SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from David Hilditch (Local Government), Gwen Savage (Business), Brendan Mackin (Trade Unions) and George O'Doherty (Paying Authority, ESF).

2. INTRODUCTION

The **Chairman** welcomed everyone to the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee, and in particular the new representatives from the Voluntary and Community and Trade Unions sectors and, the Paying Authorities for ERDF and EAGGF/FIFG. He also recorded thanks for the contribution of Eileen Kelly, the European Commission Desk Officer for Northern Ireland and welcomed her successor Jonathan Denness.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 14 November were agreed subject to two amendments:-

- Page 6, paragraph 2: insert after sentence ending Environment 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.”

- Annex A: Add “Pauline Keegan, Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG” to List of Attendees.

3.2 Action Points/Matters Arising

Mid-term Evaluation

- The **Evaluation Steering Group** discussed (23 January) but decided against adding a Voluntary and Community Sector representative to the Group.

Technical Assistance

- The Committee is reminded that Social Partners can apply for support from the Technical Assistance Budget provided the relevant criteria are met.

3.3 Notification of Any Other Business

It was agreed that:-

- a brief overview of Future Funding Post 2006 would be provided by the Managing Authority; and
- the Draft Annual Implementation Report would be taken as Agenda Item 2.

4. DRAFT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (AIR)

A **Managing Authority representative** introduced this paper which outlined the requirements, content, format and deadline for the Annual Implementation Report (AIR). At a meeting in Leeds to discuss the

AIRs, the Commission suggested the AIRs be submitted earlier than 30 June each year and should also be used as a publicity tool. The Managing Authority suggested that the use of the CSF Annual Implementation Report would provide a better publicity vehicle and give the report a niche that it presently lacked. The Committee welcomed and discussed the draft report.

- The **European Commission representative** appreciated early production of the draft AIR as more recent information is more relevant. She also welcomed the opportunity to discuss the report at the Monitoring Committee meeting.
- The **Agri-rural Sector representative** asked the Managing Authority to reconsider the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) reference in the Socio-Economic Review. It was agreed that these would be redrafted.
- Following a request from the **European Commission** NISRA agreed to analyse the practical implementation and impact of the Programme on the Socio-Economic Review.
- The **Agri-Rural Sector representative** asked the Managing Authority for clarification on two context indicators in the AIR. The Chair agreed to provide the information to the Member in due course.
- The **European Commission representative** raised the possibility of using Eurostat figures from the third Cohesion Report to update the GDP figures. She also asked that all average NI figures be compared with EU average. The NISRA representative agreed to provide an amendment.
- The **DETI Advisor** identified a few amendments needed to the indicators under Priority 1 in the AIR.

- The **Managing Authority** agreed to redraft Section 6.5, paragraph 2 to reflect comments received from Voluntary and Community representative.
- The **European Commission representative** advised that more information was required on how the Horizontal Principles had been operationalised in 2002. In particular Environmental Sustainability and Mainstreaming Gender Issues. The Managing Authority agreed to include this in the revised Annual Implementation Report.
- The Committee agreed that the paper provided by NISRA on the Performance Reserve would be included in the revised AIR. A number of amendments tabled by DARD are also to be included.
- Members noted the content of the report and agreed that the Managing Authority should make the necessary amendments then obtain clearance from the Monitoring Committee by Written Procedure.

5. **PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

The **Managing Authority representative** introduced this item with a brief verbal overview covering the closure of the 1994-99 Programme, progress towards N+2 targets and the introduction of bilateral progress meetings with Departments.

He also advised that the Department for Education (DE) had agreed to manage Measure 2.4 leaving the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) to manage Measure 2.3. Previously the Measures had been jointly managed by DE and DEL. The change facilitated by the Managing Authority should provide clarity and better focus.

Priority 1: Economic Growth and Competitiveness

- The **DETI Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this Priority. Members were advised that discussions with DTI State Aids Unit were ongoing regarding Measure 1.7, “Telecommunications” and that under Measure 1.8, the “Energy Gas Pipeline” involves a major project application currently with the European Commission for approval.
- The **DRD Advisor** updated the Committee on Measure 1.6. Members were advised it is progressing well and that it is hoped to drawdown expenditure from the European Commission in the next round.
- The **Local Government representative** asked if a breakdown of spend under Measure 1.4 could be provided. The DETI Advisor agreed to provide a presentation to the Committee on this Measure at the next meeting.
- **Carol Keery, Invest NI** gave a presentation showing how BSP Programme funds help deliver the Business Start Up Scheme.

Priority 2: Employment

- The **DEL Advisor** updated the Committee on this Priority which is also progressing well. All funding under Measure 2.2 and 2.8 has been allocated. In response to a query from the Agri-rural representative, the Managing Authority said that during the Mid-term Review, the Committee would decide on how the Performance Reserve would be allocated to the Programme. The Managing Authority also agreed to provide the N+2 targets by fund in future progress reports.
- The **DE Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of Measure 2.4 and 2.5.

Priority 3: Urban and Social Revitalisation

- The **DSD Advisor** updated the Committee on progress on Measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. The first two are well on target and, on Measure 3.1 the Department plans to put existing projects through a selection process.
- The **DE Advisor** updated the Committee on progress on Measure 3.4 for which the Department would be convening a selection process at the end of May.

Priority 4: Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries

- The **DARD Advisor** updated the Committee on progress on Priority 4 advising that the Paying Authority hoped to drawdown EAGGF/FIFG funding by the end of June. The Department is currently awaiting a response from the European Commission with regard to moving Community Strengthening or Capacity Building from Measure 4.7 to another Measure.

Amendment to the Programme Complement: DARD Measures 4.1 and 4.2B

- The **DARD Advisor** outlined a paper requesting approval for amendments to the Programme. Following discussion the Committee agreed to approve the transfer of €2.5M EAGGF from Measure 4.2B to Measure 4.1. The Committee noted that the targets for Measure 4.1 will be revisited as part of the ongoing Mid-term Evaluation of the Programme.
- The **Managing Authority** will bring forward proposals to the Commission on any changes required for the Operational Programme as a result of the agreed amendments.

Priority 5: The Environment

- The **DOE and DRD Advisors** updated the Committee on the progress on this Priority.

6. MID-TERM EVALUATION OF BSP PROGRAMME

Eric Hanvey, DTZ Pieda consulting gave a presentation on the progress of the Mid-term Evaluation and the Way Forward.

- The Committee were informed that a nomination would be sought from the CSF Monitoring Committee at its next meeting to replace Mary Magowan on the Mid-term Evaluation Steering Group. The Chair also agreed to encourage Business Sector input to the Mid-term Evaluation.

7. WORKING GROUPS

The **Chair** introduced this report providing an overview on the current state of play. Terms of Reference and Membership have largely been agreed apart from those for the Environment Working Group. And there are some finishing touches needed to the Human Resource Working Group.

Environment

- The **Environment representative** informed Members that the Environment Group has met twice and has elected Lucinda Blakiston Houston as Chair. The Group would like to expand its membership to improve gender balance and to involve private sector representatives.

Fisheries

- The **Agri-rural representative** updated Members advising that the Fisheries Group Membership now included two representatives of the fishing industry. The European

Commission representative asked the Group to look at ways of addressing the gender balance.

Human Resource Development

- The **DEL representative** updated the Committee on the work of this Group. Members were advised that the Group had met twice and at the last meeting, a number of key areas which the Group hoped to cover were identified. These included the link between Programme Complements and European Employment Strategy.

Information Society

- The **DETI representative** updated the Committee on this Group. It met on 24 October and agreed to establish a Sub-group to take forward a stocktake on Information Society activity. Following tender PriceWaterhouseCoopers were appointed to undertake the research needed. The Working Group will meet to discuss the draft final report on 28 May. And the report is expected to be finalised by 13 June in order to feed into the Mid-term Evaluation exercise.

Mainstreaming Equality

- A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee on the Mainstreaming Equality Group. Proposals on gender balance have now been accepted by the Monitoring Committees and the Minister of Finance and Personnel. The Guide to Mainstreaming Equality has now been published as a Work In Progress document. And a Focus Group has been established to create direct interface with Section 75 organisations. It will help refine the Guide.
- The Committee agreed that Frances McCandless (Voluntary and Community) should replace Annie Campbell as a BSP

Member of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group. The Committee noted that other rebuilding was needed to replace a CSF and a PEACE II Member of the Group.

Communication and Information

- A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee on progress in this area. The findings of the Omnibus Survey section on European Funding Awareness confirms public knowledge of BSP is very poor. The Working Group therefore welcomes the production and distribution of various promotional and publicity materials (eg European Structural Funds Guide, Information Leaflets) and a Newsletter designed to make the BSP Programme more visible and meaningful to the general public. The Newsletter was officially launched just prior to the BSP meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future Funding Post 2006

A **Managing Authority representative** provided an overview of the Consultation Document entitled "A Modern Regional Policy for the United Kingdom".

ESF Project Monitoring Form

The **Voluntary and Community representative** agreed to contact the Managing Authority with a query on the details on the ESF Project Monitoring Form.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday 11 November. The Secretariat will contact Members with a suitable time and venue in the near future.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2003

SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Draft Minutes of Thursday 14 November 2002	Secretariat to amend minutes and issue final version	Before next meeting
Draft Annual Implementation Report (AIR)	<p>Managing Authority to incorporate all amendments received from the Committee in the revised Draft AIR (list attached)</p> <p>Managing Authority to circulate revised Draft AIR to Monitoring Committee for clearance by Written Procedure</p>	<p>Immediate</p> <p>Before 30 June</p>
Progress Report on Implementation of the Programme	<p>Managing Authority to provide N+2 targets on each Measure by Fund in any future progress reports</p> <p>DETI to provide a presentation on Measure 1.4 to the next meeting of the Committee</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
Amendment to the Programme Complement: DARD Measure 4.1 and 4.2B	Managing Authority to amend Programme Complement and to include proposals in Mid-term Review for any changes required in the Operational Programme	Next meeting
Mid-term Evaluation of BSP Programme	Managing Authority to seek a nomination from the CSF Monitoring Committee to participate on Evaluation Steering Group	Next meeting of CSF Monitoring Committee
Working Groups	Fisheries Working Group to look at ways of improving Gender Balance	Next meeting of Working Group

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
	Managing Authority to seek new Members from the CSF and PEACE II Monitoring Committees to participate on the Mainstreaming Equality Group	Next meeting of the Monitoring Committees
Any Other Business	Voluntary and Community representative to contact Managing Authority with respect to ESF Project Monitoring Form	Before next meeting

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2003**

Members

Bill Pauley	Chair
Eugene Rooney	Deputy Chair
Nuala Kerr	PEACE II Managing Authority
Frances McCandless	Voluntary and Community
Anne McKernan	Equality
Rhonda Montgomery	Trade Unions
Miceal McCoy	Agri-rural/Fisheries
Brian Wood	Environment
Brendan Curran	Local Government
Patricia Mallon	Local Government
John Neill	Paying Authority ESF
Michael Taylor	Paying Authority ERDF
Gerry McWhinney	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG

Observers/Advisors

Dave Bradley	DE Advisor
Kieran McMahon	DOE Advisor
Stephen Creagh	DRD Advisor
Howard Keery	DETI Advisor
Don Harley	DSD Advisor
Paul Donnelly	NISRA
Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority
Eileen Kelly	DG Regio European Commission
Jon Denness	DG Regio European Commission
Orlaigh Quinn	DG Employment European Commission
Ciaran O'Doherty	John Hume's Office

Other Attendees

Angela Jackson	DETI
Lynsey Moore	DRD
Rob Lynas	DFP
Susie McMullan	DARD

Presentations

Eric Hanvey

DTZ Pidea

Carol Keery

Invest NI

Apologies

Gwen Savage

Business

David Hilditch MLA

Local Government

Howard McNally

European Commission

John Kennedy

NICE

Claire Whitten

NICE

Trevor Polley

Local Government Structural Funds Group

Peter Sangster

IFI

Tony Canavan

OFMDFM, Brussels