



**MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2003
PARK AVENUE HOTEL,
BELFAST**

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Anne McKernan (Equality), Gwen Savage (Business), Patricia Mallon (Local Government), Brendan Mackin (Trade Unions) and Maura Young (Paying Authority, ERDF).

2. INTRODUCTION

The **Chair** welcomed everyone to the twelfth meeting of the Monitoring Committee, and in particular the new representatives attending from OFMDFM and the European Commission.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 29 April were agreed without amendment.

3.2 Action Points/Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3.3 Notification of Any Other Business

It was agreed that:-

- following a request from the Community and Voluntary representative there would be a brief discussion about the use of logos, processing payments and Monitoring requirements under Measure 3.3.
- the Managing Authority would provide a brief summary on the Annual Review Meeting held on 6 November under Agenda Item 4, Progress Report.

4. MID- TERM EVALUATION OF BSP PROGRAMME – FINAL REPORT

The **Chair** introduced this paper which outlined the background to and purpose of the Mid-term Evaluation and report.

- **The Committee agreed** to endorse the Evaluation Steering Group recommendation that the Report met the Terms of Reference and could now be formally submitted to the European Commission.

5. MID-TERM REVIEW OF BSP PROGRAMME

The **Chair** introduced this paper advising Members that following the approval of the Mid-term Evaluation report, the Mid-term Review process would commence. The Paper also provided background information on the Mid-term Review, the allocation of the Performance Reserve and presented possible options on the way forward.

- **The Committee noted** that the European Commission had suggested a deadline of 19th December for the submission of the Review and Performance Reserve proposals. This would assist in seeking to secure an early Commission Decision on the proposals.
- **The European Commission representative** outlined the process for the Mid-term Review and the allocation of the Performance Reserve from the Commission Services perspective.
- **The Committee agreed** to empower the evaluation steering group to act on its behalf during the Review. It was also **agreed** that the Environment representative would join this group which would be known as the Mid-term Review Group.
- **The Managing Authority agreed** to produce a paper on the initial thinking on the allocation of the Performance Reserve for the first meeting of the Mid-term Review Group on 24 November 2003.
- **The Managing Authority and European Commission** advised that proposals from outside the scope of the Mid-term Evaluation could be brought forward by the Committee providing these could be justified with evidence, and were in line with the original aims and objectives of the Programme.
- **The Managing Authority agreed** to draw up initial proposals for the Mid-term Review to be discussed with the European Commission on 1 December. This would follow the first meeting of the Mid-term Review Group

6. Progress Report on Implementation of the Programme

A Managing Authority representative introduced this item with a brief verbal overview covering updated progress towards N+2 targets, publicity actions taken, progress on working groups and the Annual Review Meeting held in Brussels on November 6.

- **The Managing Authority agreed** to circulate the minutes from the Annual Review Meeting when they become available.

Priority 1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness

- **The DETI advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this Priority. Members were advised that DETI would like to revise indicator targets as part of the Mid-term Review and that outstanding issues regarding the gas pipeline project have almost been resolved.
- **The DRD advisor** updated the Committee on Measure 1.6. advising that the Department hoped to commence the drawdown of funds under this measure at the end of November.

Priority 2 Employment

- **The DEL representative** updated the Committee on the progress of this Priority.
- **The DEL representative agreed** to provide the European Commission (DG Employment) representative with further information on progress with regards to the Adaptability and Entrepreneurship and Improving Women's Access to the Labour Market policy fields.

- **The Managing Authority agreed** to add a note to the pro-forma on indicators in future Employment priority progress reports detailing the qualifications gained under each policy field.
- **The DE advisor** updated the Committee on the progress under Measure 2.4 and 2.5.
- **Members** were advised that implementation of Measure 2.4 will commence in January 2004. This measure will now be delivering activities relating to truancy and will be implemented by the Education and Welfare Service of the Education and Library Boards. The Letter of Offer has been agreed.
- **Members** were also advised that under Measure 2.5, contracts have been signed by the deliverers of Classroom 2000 activities, and that the Department hopes to submit a payment claim for £15 million before the end of November.
- **The Managing Authority confirmed** that the gap in Adult Learning activity under Measure 2.4 would be addressed in the Mid-term Review.

Priority 3 Urban and Social Revitalisation

- **The DSD advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this Priority. The Committee were informed that the Department are currently identifying projects for Measure 3.1.
- **The DE advisor** updated the Committee on the progress on Measure 3.4. Members were advised that 51 pre-school units

have been built and this has created a further 1730 pre-school places.

Priority 4 Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries

- **The DARD representative** updated the Committee on progress on Priority 4.
- **Members** were advised that DARD continues to work with the Managing Authority in order to meet the EAGGF N+2 targets. A number of options are currently under consideration.
- **The Committee** were also informed that DARD hoped to submit a further certified expenditure claim to the European Commission in the very near future.

Priority 5 Environment

- **The DRD and DOE advisors** updated the Committee on progress on this Priority.
- **Members** were advised that DOE have established an EU co-ordinating unit to help in monitoring and assessing grant applications. The unit is currently considering 15 applications following completed economic appraisals. The Department is currently considering a further open call for applications early in the New Year.

The Committee noted the progress made in the BSP Operational Programme.

7. Monitoring Committee Report by NICE

The **Chair** introduced this report which was about supporting the effectiveness of the BSP & CSF Monitoring Committees.

- **Ms Claire Whitten of pi², formerly NICE** gave a presentation on the main findings of the report circulated to Members.
- **The DEL representative** offered to provide briefing sessions and meet with Members individually to help them understand the role of the Department in the implementation of the Programme if they would find this helpful.
- **The European Commission representative (DG Regio)** agreed to circulate the NICE report around the Ireland and UK unit, DG Regio for their information.
- **The Managing Authority** welcomed the report, while noting it reflected the experience and perspective of individual Committee Members. The parent sector/organisation dimension could however be covered in a discussion of the report's proposals at an event **the Managing Authority agreed** to organise early in 2004. (subject to the views of the CSF Monitoring Committee)
- **The Managing Authority advised** that it would build on previous contacts with NILGA, to discuss possible ways of improving the attendance of the Local Government sector representatives at Monitoring Committee meetings.

8. Any other Business

- **The DSD Advisor agreed** to meet and discuss several issues with NICVA's Measure 3.3 Group.
- **The Committee agreed** that the proposals for the Mid-term Review would be circulated to the Monitoring Committee for agreement following the recommendations from the Mid-term Review Group.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Secretariat will contact Members with a suitable time, date and venue in due course.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2003

PARK AVENUE HOTEL, BELFAST

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Mid-term Evaluation – Final Report	Managing Authority to submit the final report to the European Commission	Immediate
Mid-term Review of BSP Programme	<p>Managing Authority to produce a paper on the initial thinking on the allocation of the Performance Reserve</p> <p>Managing Authority to draft Mid-term review initial proposals for meeting with European Commission</p> <p>Managing Authority to circulate proposals for Mid-term Review to Monitoring Committee for agreement</p>	<p>Before 24 November (First Meeting of Mid-term Review (MTR) Group)</p> <p>Following First Meeting of MTR Group</p> <p>Following MTR Group conclusions</p>
Progress Report on Implementation of the Programme	<p>Managing Authority to circulate minutes of Annual Review Meeting with European Commission</p> <p>DEL to provide further Information on progress on Adaptability and Entrepreneurship and Improving Women’s Access to the Labour Market Policy Fields</p> <p>Managing Authority to include footnote in next progress report on Priority 2 performance indicators detailing qualifications gained under each policy field</p>	<p>When available</p> <p>Immediate</p> <p>Next meeting</p>

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Monitoring Committee Report by NICE	<p>Managing Authority to organise an event (subject to CSF Monitoring Committee Views) to discuss findings and proposals in the report</p> <p>Managing Authority to discuss with NILGA, possible ways of improving Local Government sector attendance at meetings</p>	<p>Early 2004</p> <p>Before next meeting</p>
Any other Business	DSD Advisor to meet NICVA's Measure 3.3 Group to discuss various issues	During December 2003

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2003**

Members

Bill Pauley	Chair
Linda Wilson	Deputy Chair
Michael Hegarty	PEACE II Managing Authority
Frances McCandless	Voluntary and Community
Miceal McCoy	Agri-rural/Fisheries
Brian Wood	Environment
George O'Doherty	Paying Authority ESF
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
Gerard Colgan	NISRA
Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority
Jayne Woolford	DG Regio European Commission
Jon Denness	DG Regio European Commission
Orlaigh Quinn	DG Employment European Commission
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Group

Other Attendees

Bernie Traill	DFP
Rob Lynas	DFP
Susie McMullan	DARD
Pat Delaney	DRD

Presentation

Claire Whitten	Pi ² (formerly NICE)
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Apologies

Gwen Savage	Business
Anne McKernan	Equality
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions

Patricia Mallon
Maura Young

Local Government
Paying Authority ERDF