



MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 25 MAY 2004

ARMAGH CITY HOTEL

ARMAGH

MINUTES

1. Attendance

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Gwen Savage (Business), Miceal McCoy (Agri-Rural), Pat Mallon (Local Government) and Trevor Polley (LGSFG).

2. Introduction

The **Chair** welcomed everyone to the thirteenth meeting of The Monitoring Committee and in particular the new representatives attending from the Department of Education and the European Commission.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 11 November were agreed without amendment.

3.2 Action Points

The **Managing Authority** agreed to provide the Voluntary and Community representative with guidance on the use of logos.

3.3 Notification of Any Other Business

It was agreed that the

- Managing Authority would provide a brief summary on the Cohesion Forum held on May 10 and 11 in Brussels.

- Following a request from the Community and Voluntary representative (the interim Chair of The Mainstreaming Equality Working Group) the Committee would be asked to agree that a joint meeting of the CSF Working Groups to discuss areas of common interest could take place.

4. Progress Report on Implementation of Programme

A **Managing Authority Representative** introduced this item with a brief verbal overview covering updated progress towards N+2 targets, progress on the populating of the central database, publicity actions taken by Managing Authority and Departments including the results of the NI omnibus survey on EU awareness and a brief update of the work of the CSF Working Groups.

Priority 1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness

- The **DETI Advisor** updated the Committee on the good progress of this priority. Members were advised that the DETI measures within this priority were performing well and it was expected that the Department would exceed the 2004 N+2 target.
- The **European Commission representative** advised the Committee that the gas pipeline application was currently with The European Investment Bank for consultation and a decision was expected within the next couple of months.
- The **Committee** were advised that The Information Society Working Group would be hosting a conference on 15–16 June in the City Hotel, Derry to promote eEurope4all – Demonstrating Best Practice.

Priority 2 – Employment

- The **DEL advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this priority.
- The **Committee** were advised that a further call for projects has been completed in the autumn and that a further round of funding had now commenced.
- The **DE advisor** updated the Committee on the progress under Measures 2.4 and 2.5.

- Members were advised that this Measure would deliver activities relating to truancy and that the Department was currently delivering awareness programmes within schools. The Department and NISRA are also to undertake a study to investigate links between truancy and underachievement.
- Members were updated on progress on Measure 2.5. The DE representative advised members that the C2K project would be completed in June and that proposals have been made in the Mid Term Review to include special schools in this project.

Priority 3 – Urban and Social Revitalisation

- The **DSD advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this priority. The Committee were advised that while applications for funding under Measure 3.1 were continuing to cause difficulty, Measures 3.2 and 3.3 were progressing well.
- The **DE advisor** informed the Committee that Measure 3.4 was almost complete, that all the units built were now operating and the Department hoped to complete vouching of payments by September 2004.

Priority 4 – Agriculture

- The **DARD advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this priority. The Committee were advised that implementation of the programme had been progressing well during the year.
- The **Committee** were advised that the EAGGF 2004 N+2 target would be a challenge to meet. The Department are currently investigating possible new activities for the Programme.
- The **Chair** commented that the Minister, Ian Pearson's views were that everything will be done to avoid any decommitment of funds and he would expect DARD to introduce appropriate actions.
- The **Committee agreed** that any new activities identified by DARD would be considered through written procedure.

- The **Committee** were also advised that FIFG had already met its 2004 N+2 target.

Priority 5 – Environment

- The **DOE representative** updated the Committee on the progress within this priority. They were advised that following a slow start, progress is being made.
- The **Committee** were informed that a number of meetings had taken place between DFP, DOE (EHS), DARD and members of the Mid–Term Review to explore opportunities for other grassroots projects which may be funded.

Howard Keery, DETI gave a presentation on Measure 1.4 Local Economic Development.

The **Committee** noted the progress made in implementation of the programme.

5. Mid Term Review of BSP Programme

- The **Chair** introduced this Paper which outlined the background to the proposals for the Mid Term Review.
- The **Committee** were advised that the Paper presented to them had been agreed by the Mid Term Review Group
- The **Managing Authority representative** outlined the paper containing proposals for the allocation of the Performance Reserve and other amendments of the programme.
- **Members** were informed that a number of meetings had been held by members of the Mid Term Review Group, including one involving DFP, DOE and DARD to discuss Environmental Capacity Building issues which may be funded using the Priority 5 allocation.
- The European Commission expressed strong concerns about the transfer of €14 ESF within Priority 2 from Measure 2.4 to Measure 2.1 as this was against the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation and also against

the recommendations to the UK in the context of the European Employment Strategy.

- The **Managing Authority agreed** to ask DSD to provide a paper on the proposed changes to the Measure 3.1 Urban Revitalisation.
- Following a request from the voluntary and community representative it was **agreed** that a meeting would be held between DFP, DSD and NICVA to discuss changes to Measure 3.1.
- The **Committee agreed** the measure level allocation of the Performance Reserve and changes to the Programme Complement contained in the Mid Term Review adjustments paper.

6. **Draft Annual Implementation Report 2003**

The **Chair** introduced this paper which outlined the background to and purpose of the Annual Implementation Report.

- The **Committee agreed** to provide the Secretariat with any comments on the draft Annual Implementation Report within the next two weeks.

7. **Role of Monitoring Committees**

The **Chair** introduced this report which was the Managing Authority's proposed way forward from the Monitoring Committee Seminar.

- The **Committee agreed** the introduction of the proposed reporting system and that the Managing Authority would regularly update the Committee on progress. The actions already taken by the Managing Authority were noted by the Monitoring Committee.
- **Members also agreed** that in line with the proposal that they should visit BSP projects, the next meeting of the Committee would take place in the BSP funded Signal Business Growth Centre, Bangor.
- The **Managing Authority** asked **Members** to consider how the social partners and other representative bodies and individual Committee Members can best contribute to progress.

8. **AOB**

Update of the Cohesion Forum

- The **Chair** updated the Committee on the recent Cohesion Forum held in Brussels.

Meeting of CSF Working Groups to discuss areas of common interest.

- Following a proposal from the Community and Voluntary representative (interim Chair of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group) the Committee (subject to the agreement of the CSF Monitoring Committee) **agreed** that a meeting between the CSF Working Group to discuss areas of common interest should be held.
- The **Managing Authority agreed** to facilitate this meeting.
- On the Commission's request, the Managing Authority confirmed that it aware of the issues that have arisen following audits of some of the UK programmes concerning voluntary contributions relating to Technical Assistance and that this was not an issue within the BSP programme.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Secretariat will contact members with a suitable time and date.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 25 MAY 2004

ARMAGH CITY HOTEL, ARMAGH

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Matters Arising Use of Logos	Managing Authority to provide guidance on the use of logos to the Voluntary and Community representative	Immediate
Mid-term Review Measure 3.1 Urban Revitalisation	DSD to draft paper on the proposed changes to Measure 3.1 Managing Authority to arrange meeting with DSD and NIVCA to discuss changes to the Measure	Immediate Following circulation of the DSD paper
Draft Annual Implementation Report (AIR) 2004	Members to provide Secretariat with any comments on the draft AIR by 8 June 2004	By 8 June 2004
Role of Monitoring Committees	Secretariat to arrange next meeting of the Committee in the Signal Business Growth Centre, Bangor	Early Autumn