



**Tuesday 26 April 2005  
Banbridge Enterprise Centre  
Banbridge**

## **Minutes**

### **1. Attendance**

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Linda Wilson (OFMDFM), Peter Sangster (IFI), Trevor Polley (LGSFG) and Jayne Woolford (European Commission).

### **2. Introduction**

The **Chair** welcomed everyone to the fifteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and in particular new representatives from the Business, Environment Sectors and NILGA.

### **3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 17 November were accepted without amendment.

3.2 There were no matters arising

3.3 Notification of Any Other Business

**The Voluntary and Community representative** advised the Committee that NICVA had commissioned Deloitte to carry out a study into Social Partner contribution and impact in NI and Members would be asked to complete a questionnaire later in the meeting.

### **4. Progress Report on Implementation of the Programme**

A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee with a brief overview covering the financial progress of the Programme, key issues from the individual priorities and working groups.

- *Financial Progress*

The Committee were advised that all 2004 N+2 targets had been met and that the programme is now 75% committed totaling over 1 billion euro.

- *Priority 1*

Members were informed that following a meeting on 11 November between the Managing Authority and European Commission. The Managing Authority proposes to submit a separate application for the North West pipeline immediately and a further application for the North South pipeline would be made following planning approval.

- *Priority 2*

Members were advised that following discussions between the Managing Authority, European Commission and Department for Employment and Learning it was agreed to fund DEL's Essential Skills initiative under Measure 2.4 Lifelong Learning.

- *Priority 3*

The Committee were advised that the issues regarding the implementation of Measure 3.1 had been resolved following discussions between the Managing Authority, Members of the Monitoring Committee and Department for Social Department.

- *Priority 4*

Members were informed that the Review of EAGGF Measures was ongoing and a number of recommendations were before the Committee today.

- *Priority 5*

Members were informed that DRD element of this priority was progressing well and that was a need for DOE to increase its spending.

- *Technical Assistance*

The Committee were advised that the following the proposed PEACE II extension, a further roll-out of the database is required and this will be co-funded from BSP Technical Assistance.

- *2005 N+2 Targets*

Members were informed that progress towards the N+2 Targets has been mixed. The FIG target has already been met and that ESF target is achievable. The EAGGF target is challenging but DARD continue to explore all options.

The **Managing Authority** drew attention to the ERDF element of the programme which is split over several Departments. The projections supplied by these departments currently show a shortfall of £14million. Members were advised that the Managing Authority and the Implementing Departments will monitor this situation. It was **agreed** that the Managing Authority would bring forward options, if required, to the Monitoring Committee in advance of the Autumn Monitoring Committee meeting.

- **Working Groups**

The Committee was advised on the latest work undertaken by the Working Groups including that a draft report has been produced on the work commissioned by the Working Group on Impact of EU Programmes on Section 75 groups.

- **Environmental Sustainability**

Members were advised that the Managing Authority has arranged further training on Environmental Sustainability for the departments involved in delivering the Programme.

The **Managing Authority Representative** invited Departmental representatives to update the Committee on progress on their individual priorities.

- *Priority 1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness*

The **DETI Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this priority. Members were advised that Measure 1-5 continued to perform well.

Measure 1.7 Telecommunications is experiencing difficulties due to the differences between the estimated costs of the broadband roll-out (£16 million) and the actual cost (£9 million). DETI are continuing to look at ways to cover this shortfall.

The *DRD Advisor* updated the Committee on the continuing good progress of Measure 1.6.

- *Information Society Working Group*

Following a request for the **DETI advisor** for nominations to the working group, the **Trade Union representative** informed the

Committee that congress would be nominating a new member to the group.

The **DETI advisor** agreed to forward information regarding the Information Society Working Group to the new Business representative.

- *Priority 2 Employment*

The **DEL Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this priority.

Following queries on data provided by DEL in the oral report and comparisons between the figures contained in the written progress report to end March 2005 and the 2004 draft AIR, it was **agreed** that DEL would provide a paper to the Committee outlining the current position of the Priority 2 Performance Indicators.

Following a query from the **Voluntary and Community representative**, the **DEL advisor** informed the Committee that the department is currently investigating ways to address the under representation of women in Measures 2.1 & 2.2 before the next call for applicants in September.

The **DE Advisor** updated the committee on progress of Measures 2.4 & 2.5

- *Priority 3 Urban and Social Revitalisation*

The **DE Advisor** informed the Committee that Measure 3.4 has now been completed.

The **DSD Advisor** updated the Committee on the Progress of the DSD measures within this priority. Members were advised that Measure 3.1 has now been completed and that measures 3.2 and 3.3 are progressing well.

- *Priority 5 Environment*

The **DRD Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress made on the DRD element of this priority. Members were advised that the department is currently allocating the Performance Reserve money.

The **DOE Advisor** updated the Committee on the progress made on the DOE element of this priority. Members were advised that the departments would be making proposals on the way forward to the Managing Authority in the near future.

Following a query from the **Trade Union representative**, the **Chair** assured the Committee that the Managing Authority had no desire to move money from the Sustainable Environment element of this priority.

Following a request from the Agri-rural representative, the Managing Authority proposed to include brief updates for Measures which had performed well or reference to any difficulties which Department may be experiencing in the progress report.

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

- *Priority 4 Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries*

The **DARD advisor** updated the Committee on the progress of this Priority. Members were advised that the Review of EAGGF Measures was due to be completed in the Autumn.

The Committee were advised that following discussions between DARD Fisheries Division and DG FISH, DARD wished to withdraw the proposed Measure Sheet circulated to the Monitoring Committee for Approval. The DARD representative agreed to ask Fisheries Division to contact the Agri-rural Representative to explain the details of the situation.

The Committee **agreed** to transfer €2 million EAGGF funding from Measure 4.5 to Measure 4.2 and also **agreed** to close Measure 4.3 Forestry.

**Vince McKevitt, DARD** gave a presentation on the Rural Development Programme which is partly funded by the BSP Programme.

Following a query for the **Trade Union representative** on the number of rejected applications, a **DARD representative** explained the reasons for the withdrawn/rejected applications including inability to find Match Funding and misunderstanding of the purpose of the Programme.

## 5. Mid Term Evaluation Update

A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee on the progress of the Mid-term Evaluation Update. Members were informed that the Committee would meet on the 28 April. The group hoped to produce an interim report by 30 June and draft final report by September.

The Committee **noted** the approach and progress towards meeting the regulatory requirement by December 2005.

## 6. Role of Communication and Information Working Group (CIWG)

The **Chair of the Communication and Information Working Group** outlined the proposed way forward for the CIWG. The Committee were advised that the group had fulfilled its terms of reference and it had been proposed that the group undertake a monitoring and evaluation role.

Following a discussion it was **agreed** that the Managing Authority would produce a publicity report for the next meeting of the Committee and the issue of the monitoring role could be revisited later, if required.

## 7. Draft Annual Implementation Report (AIR)

The **Chair** outlined the proposed way forward regarding the Annual Implementation Report.

During the discussion, requests for additional material were received from the Agri-rural and Voluntary & Community representatives.

The Committee **noted** the contents of the 2004 AIR and **agreed** to provide comments on the report to the Managing Authority by 10 May.

It was also **noted** that the final draft report will be issued for written approval before the end of May.

## 8. Role of Monitoring Committees

A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee with a brief overview covering the Customer Satisfaction Survey, role of Monitoring Committees proforma and the refreshment of Membership exercise.

- *Customer Satisfaction Survey*

The Committee were advised that the Managing Authority has put new procedures in place to respond to Members' concerns highlighted in the survey.

- *Role of Monitoring Committee Proforma*

The Committee were invited to provide any comments they may wish for the section B & C of the Role of Monitoring Committees proforma.

The **Managing Authority Representative** also invited the new members of the Committee to provide any comments/queries on the new induction pack which had been circulated earlier.

The **Voluntary and Community representative** highlighted to the Managing Authority that all guidance provided by the Working Group needed to be communicated to all Monitoring Committees.

- *Refreshment of Membership Exercise*

The Committee were informed that following the exercise undertaken by the Managing Authority, the Business and Environment sectors have nominated new Members to the Committee.

Members were advised NILGA have been asked to undertake a refreshment of the local government representation of the Committees following the elections on 5 May.

The **Managing Authority representative** also advised Members that the Equality Commission had contacted the Managing Authority to propose a meeting to discuss their role on the Monitoring Committees.

## 9. Any Other Business

- *Future Funding*

The **Chair** updated the Committee on the proposed new arrangements for Future Funding post 2006.

- *Concordia Research into Social Partner contribution*

Members were asked to complete a questionnaire as part of the Concordia research into the Social Partner impact and contribution in Northern Ireland.

- *Meeting of Employment Ministers in Northern Ireland*

The *DEL representative* informed the Committee that all European Employment Ministers will meet in Northern Ireland in July as part of the UK presidency.

## 10. Date of next meeting

It was **agreed** the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee will take place on 18 October 2005. The Secretariat will contact Members regarding venue and time.

**ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2005  
BANBRIDGE ENTERPRISE CENTRE  
BANBRIDGE**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
Progress Report	Managing Authority to provide information on measure progress	Next meeting of Committee
Priority 2 Performance Indicators	DEL to provide paper on progress of Priority 2 Performance indicators	Immediate
Information Society Working Group (ISWG)	DETI to provide information to the Business representative on the work of the ISWG	Immediate
Withdrawal of proposed Measure 4.13L	DARD Fisheries Division to contact Agr-rural representative regarding the withdrawal of proposed sub-measure 4.13L (Strangford Lough)	Immediate
Communication and Information	Managing Authority to produce report on publicity actions for the Autumn Monitoring Committee	Next Meeting of Committee
BSP Annual Implementation Report	Managing Authority to include additional Information requested by the Agri-rural and Voluntary & Community representatives	Immediate
	Members to provide comments/amendments to Monitoring Committee Secretariat on draft AIR	Before 10 May
Role of Monitoring Committees	Members to provide comments by email for Section B & C of the Role of Monitoring Committees proforma	Immediate

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 APRIL 2005**

**Members**

Bill Pauley	Chair
Nuala Kerr (for Pat Colgan)	PEACE II Managing Authority
Christine McCann	Business
Brian Murphy	Environment
Anne McKernan	Equality
Frances McCandless	Voluntary & Community
Miceal McCoy	Agri-Rural / Fisheries
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Gerry McWhinney	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG
Margaret McKenna	Paying Authority ERDF
John Neill	Paying Authority ESF

**Observers/Advisors**

Howard Keery	DETI advisor
Dave Bradley	DE advisor
Kieran McMahon	DOE advisor
Don Harley	DSD advisor
Pat Delaney	DRD advisor
Michelle Furphy	NISRA
Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority
Jon Denness	DG Regio, European Commission
Eoin O'Seaghda	DG Employ, European Commission
Neil Bain	DG Agri, European Commission
Bob George	DTI observer

**Other Attendees**

James Sampson	NISRA
Teresa Lennon	NILGA
Vince McKeivitt	DARD
Michael McLernon	DARD
Owen Gillespie	DEL
Jim Hyndman	DEL
Janet Galbraith	DFP
Bernie Traill	DFP

**Apologies**

Linda Wilson	Deputy Chair
Peter Sangster	IFI
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Group
Jayne Woolford	DG Regio, European Commission