



**Tuesday 18 October 2005  
Lagan Valley Island  
Lisburn**

## **Minutes**

### **1. Attendance**

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Brian Murphy, Environment, Brendan Mackin, Trade Unions, Eoin O'Seaghdha, European Commission, Trevor Polley, LGSFG and Peter Sangster, IFI.

Gerry Mclochlainn, Local Government was unable to attend and Angela Nelson attended in his place.

### **2. Introduction**

The **Chair** welcomed everyone to the sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and in particular new representatives from the Local Government Sector and the European Commission.

The **Chair** also introduced new representatives of the BSP and PEACE II Managing Authorities.

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

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 25 April were accepted subject to the following amendments:-

#### **Page 4 Bullet Point 2**

Following Managing Authority **insert** 'and European Commission. The Managing Authority'

#### **Page 4 Bullet Point 8**

**Remove** 'is unlikely to be met' and **replace** with 'is challenging but DARD continue to explore all options.

#### **Page 7 Bullet point 1 paragraph 3**

**Insert** 'Million' following €2.

### 3.2 Action Points

The **Chair** updated the members on the progress on the Action Points from the previous meeting.

### 3.3 Matters Arising

The **Voluntary and Community representative** thanked the Committee for their participation in the research into Social Partners contribution in Northern Ireland and informed them that the findings would be available on the Concordia website next week.

## 4. Progress Report on Implementation of Programme

The **Chair** informed the Committee that following the decision to close Measure 4.3 from effect from December 2003, the European Commission have advised that the date from which the amendment begins cannot be before the date the Monitoring Committee approved the date for closure. The **Chair** confirmed that the Measure is now closed.

Following a request from the **Chair**, The Committee endorsed the reallocation of €2 million from Measure 4.5 to Measure 4.2 as previously agreed in April 2005.

A **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee with a brief overview covering the financial progress of the Programme, key issues and the Working Groups.

- *Commitment and Certified expenditure*

Members were updated on the progress on applications, commitments and certified expenditure. They were advised that there are currently 3 drawdowns (2 ERDF and 1 ESF) in progress.

- *Management of the Programme*

The Committee were advised that due to the Commission decision regarding the north-south pipeline, the Managing Authority has brought forward proposals to this meeting to reallocate the funding to other measures within the same priority.

- *Progress towards N+2 targets*

The Committee were advised that the Managing Authority expects that all four funds will meet their N+2 target.

The **Chair** invited Departmental representatives to update the Committee on progress on their individual priorities.

- *Economic Growth and Competitiveness*

The **DETI representative** updated the Committee on their measures within this priority. The Committee were advised about the possibility of reallocation within the sub measures in Measure 1.1 and Measure 1.3. Members were also advised that expenditure under Measure 1.4 has been slower than expected but DETI are confident that the measure will be fully committed.

The **DRD representative** updated the Committee on Measure 1.6. Members were informed that this measure continues to perform well.

Following queries from the **Agri-rural representative**, the **DRD representative** advised that they would bring forward spending proposals to absorb the funds currently earmarked for the Rural Bus Station.

- *Priority 2 Employment*

The **DEL representative** updated the Committee on the progress of their Measures within this priority. Members were advised ESF will meet its N+2 target. Members were advised that the uptake of funding for Measure 2.6 has been low.

The **Managing Authority agreed** to forward the Priority 2 Indicator paper to the Agri-rural representative.

The **DE representative** updated the Members on the progress of Measure 2.4 and 2.5.

- *Priority 3 Urban and Social Revitalisation*

The **DSD and DE representatives** provided updates on the progress of their measures within this priority.

**DE also agreed** to provide a breakdown of the locations of the 51 nursery units (including Nursery Schools) and a breakdown between teachers and classroom assistants of the 130 posts which have been created under Measure 3.4.

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

The **DARD representative** provided a brief outline of Annex III of the progress report. Members were informed that DARD have identified the Measures to reallocate the funding which remained in Measure 4.3 Forestry.

The Committee were advised that the BIOGAS project identified for funding will not be going ahead. RDD are currently investigating new schemes to absorb the funding which had been earmarked for this project.

Members were also advised that the Rural Development Council had held a successful publicity event in Cookstown on 17 October.

Following a discussion on the way forward on Priority 4, **The DARD representative agreed** to take on board the Committee's views and agreed to present their final proposals to the Committee before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Following a query from the **DG Agri representative**, the **DARD representative** confirmed that the EAGGF Paying Authority would be submitting a claim to the European Commission in December. This claim would be submitted using the existing procedures currently used by DARD.

- *Priority 5 Environment*

The **DRD and DOE representatives** provided updates on the progress of their measures within this priority.

**John Neill, DEL** gave a presentation on Measure 2.8 Advancement of Women.

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

## 5. **Changes to the Programme Complement**

The **Chair** outlined the proposals in this paper to amend the Programme Complement. Members were advised that due to the time constraints the Commission have advised that a more prudent approach should be taken in regard to the South/North element of the Gas pipeline.

The **Chair** explained that the consequence of this decision is that €18.46m had to be reallocated and that the proposals to transfer the funding to Measure 1.6b and 1.7 are in line with the overall aims and objectives of Priority 1 and the 75%/25% balance between Sub-priority 1 (a) Supporting Business Competitiveness and Sub-priority 1 (b) Creating the conditions for Regional Competitiveness.

The European Commission advised caution with regard to retrospective projects. The Chair advised that the Managing Authority was confident that funding the trains would meet all European regulatory requirements.

The **Committee agreed** to transfer €14.46m to Measure 1.6b and €4.00m to Measure 1.7 from Measure 1.8a.

The **Committee also agreed** a revised performance indicator for Measure 5.1 and to transfer €661,446 from Measure 6.1b to Measure 6.1a.

## **6. Mid-term Evaluation Update**

The **Chair** outlined the background to producing a Mid-term Evaluation Update.

The **NISRA representative** outlined the main findings, the conclusions and the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation update.

The **Chair** advised Members that the Managing Authority will bring forwards proposals to respond to the recommendations of the report.

**The Committee noted** the completion of the report and that the report will be sent to the Commission to meet the regulatory requirement.

## **7. AOB**

- **Future Funding**

This item was discussed after the meeting closed.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

It was **agreed** that the next meeting will take place on 25 April 2006. Members were asked to advise the secretariat of any suitable venues in their constituencies/areas.

**ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER**

**LAGAN VALLEY ISLAND, LISBURN**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Secretariat to amend minutes and circulate to Committee	Immediate
Progress Report Priority 2 Indicators	Secretariat to forward Priority 2 Indicators Paper to the Agri-rural representative	Immediate
Progress Report Measure 3.4 Investing in Early Learning	Department of Education to supply requested information to the Local Government representatives	Immediate
Progress Report Priority 4	DARD to produce final proposals for Priority 4 and circulate to the Monitoring Committee	Before next meeting
Amendments to the Programme Complement	Managing Authority to produce an amended Programme Complement and forward to the European Commission	Immediate
Mid-term Evaluation Update	Managing Authority to produce proposals in response to the findings of the Mid-term Evaluation Update	Before next meeting
	Managing Authority to forward Mid-term Evaluation update to the European Commission to meet a regulatory requirement	Before 31 December

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2005**

**Members**

Bill Pauley	Chair
Linda Wilson	Deputy Chair
Gina McIntyre (for Pat Colgan)	PEACE II Managing Authority
Christine McCann	Business
Mary McSorley (for Anne McKernan)	Equality
Frances McCandless	Voluntary & Community
Miceal McCoy	Agri-Rural / Fisheries
Angela Nelson (for Gerry Maclochlainn)	Local Government
Arnold Hatch	Local Government
Mealla Bratton	Local Government
Robin Newton	Local Government
Gerry McWhinney	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG
Maura Young	Paying Authority ERDF
John Neill	Paying Authority ESF

**Observers/Advisors**

Howard Keery	DETI advisor
Dave Bradley	DE advisor
Barry Graham	DOE advisor
Peter Neeson	DSD advisor
Pat Delaney	DRD advisor
Gerard Colgan	NISRA
Colette FitzGerald	BSP Managing Authority
Jayne Woolford	DG Regio, European Commission
David Yormesor	DG Regio, European Commission
Neil Bain	DG Agri, European Commission
Alec Harrison	DG Agri, European Commission
Ian Tutt	DTI observer

**Other Attendees**

Jim Allister MEP	DUP
Christopher Stalford	DUP (Jim Allister's office)
Damien McGinty	Sinn Fein (Bairbre DeBrun's office)
Teresa Lennon	NILGA
James Lavery	NICVA
Vince McKeivitt	DARD
Owen Gillespie	DEL
Janet Galbraith	DFP
Bernie Traill	DFP

**Apologies**

Brian Murphy	Environment
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Gerry Maclochlainn	Local Government
Eoin O'Seaghda	DG Employ, European Commission
Peter Sangster	IFI
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Group