



Wednesday 18 October Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

Minutes

1. Attendance

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies were received from Maella Bratton, Local Government, Robin Newton, Local Government, Arnold Hatch, Local Government, Gerry MacLochlainn, Local Government, Brendan Mackin, Trade Unions, Trevor Polley, LGSFG & Kieran McMahon, DOE.

2. Introduction

The **Chair** welcomed everyone to the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee and in particular new representatives from the ESF and EAGGF/FIFG Paying Authorities and NISRA.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

3.1 The minutes of the meeting 25 April were accepted without amendment.

3.2 The **Chair** updated the Members on progress on the Action Points from the previous 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 including Closure of the Programmes and work carried out by the Working Groups.

- *Programme Commitments*

Members were advised that since the last meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the programme commitments have risen by 4.91% to 94.70%. The **Managing Authority representative** informed Members that the current progress rate would lead to full commitment and expenditure by the end of the Programme.

- *N+2 targets*

The Committee was informed that the Managing Authority continues to carry out claims for drawdown from the European Commission. Members were advised that the current forecasts for N+2 show that ERDF, ESF and FIG will achieve their N+2 targets comfortably and following discussions between DARD and the Managing Authority, DARD have advised that they will meet the EAGGF target.

- *Closure of the Programme*

The **Managing Authority representative** updated the Committee on the actions carried out by the Managing Authority to ensure a successful Closure Report. They advised that the Commission have issued the final guidance on Closure and this has been circulated to all BSP Implementing Departments.

- *Publicity*

The Committee was informed that the Managing Authority and the European Commission discussed the issue of Publicity at the recent Annual Review Meeting. The **Managing Authority representative** advised that they were conscious of the need to publicise the Programme and drew attention the recent Newsletter which was circulated at the meeting.

- *Working Groups*

Members were advised that the Information Society WG hosted a successful major eEurope4all conference in Newry in May and the Human Resource Development Working Group have completed their research into the lessons learnt in the delivery of ESF co-funded activities under BSP and PEACE II. The final report was circulated earlier to the Monitoring Committees for their information.

- *Priority 1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness*

The **DETI representative** advised that their measures were progressing well towards their targets. They highlighted that they are considering possible reallocations within the sub-measures of Measure 1.1 and 1.3 and that the Department is closely monitoring the Telecommunications measure to ensure that the measure spends its full allocation.

They also advised that Measure 1.4 was slow to begin but Councils were commencing a number of large infrastructure projects and therefore expenditure levels of this measure would rise as these projects progress.

The **DETI representative** agreed to forward a further explanation to the Agri-rural Representative regarding the data provided on Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD) and how this is measured for the duration of the programme.

The **DRD representative** informed the Committee that the Department hoped to complete spend on Measure 1.6 by the end of the year.

- *Priority 2 Employment*

The **DEL representative** advised the Committee on the progress made in their measures. Members were advised that DEL were inputting the Letter of Offer details on the Central Database following the third call for projects undertaken earlier in the year.

Following a query from the **Agri-Rural representative** on Lifelong Learning indicators, **DEL** advised that the figure for the Lifelong Learning measure was updated annually and therefore next year's figures would provide a clearer picture on progress. DEL agreed to forward details of the qualifications gained in the Lifelong Learning measure to the Agri-rural representative.

The **DEL representative** also agreed to contact the Voluntary and Community representative to provide further details on the progress of Measure 2.8 Advancement of Women.

- *Priority 3 Urban and Social Revitalisation*

The **DSD representative** advised that all their measures were progressing well and the department were investigating ways to mainstream the funding of successful projects through Departmental expenditure following the end of the BSP Programme.

Following a query from the **Voluntary and Community representative**, **DSD** advised that their Internal Audit had requested that Economic Appraisals be carried out for projects requesting additional funding where that additional funding caused the total funding to exceed the threshold.

The **DE representative** advised the Committee that all measures administered by DE are progressing well.

- *Priority 4 Agriculture*

The **Chair** advised the Committee that DARD would provide an update of their measures in the next agenda item.

- *Priority 5 Environment*

The **DRD representative** advised the Committee that the DRD element of this measure was largely complete and the final project, Carran Hill Water Treatment works would be officially opened in April 2007.

The **Monitoring Committee** noted the progress and developments which have taken place in the Programme since the last meeting of the Committee.

5. DARD Action Plan

The **DARD representative** outlined the rationale behind the reallocations in the EAGGF measures within the Priority. Members were advised that due to a number of reasons including the failure of the Bio-Gas project, DARD had been unable to provide definitive allocations from the review of EAGGF until recently. Following the review of EAGGF Measures, DARD proposed to transfer funding from the under performing measures into Measures 4.2, 4.6, 4.9 and 4.11.

The **Committee agreed** to approve the proposals to re-allocate EAGGF funds as set out in the DARD paper subject to minor revisions to correct some of the figures, as notified to the Committee.

The **DARD representative** advised the Committee on the progress made on each measure of Priority 4. Members were advised that DARD have identified a shortfall in the amount of private funding available for Measure 4.13 Fisheries. DARD advised that they are investigating various options available to them in order to alleviate this shortfall. DARD also advised following discussions with their Implementing Bodies that they are confident that they would be able to meet the EAGGF 2006 N+2 target.

Following a query from the **Agri-rural representative**, the **Managing Authority agreed** to investigate the methodology used by Departments to measure jobs creation when reporting against the programmes indicators.

6. AOB

The Chair updated the Committee on the current situation regarding the 2007-2013 programmes. Members were advised that the allocations to the new programmes would be announced next week and following this announcement, the Managing Authority will circulate these allocations to the Monitoring Committee.

**ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER
LOUGH NEAGH DISCOVERY CENTRE**

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
Progress Report Priority 1 Update	DETI to forward an explanation to the Agri-rural Representative on the how BERD is reported in the programme	Immediate
Progress Report Priority 2 Update	DEL to provide a breakdown of the qualifications gained through the Lifelong Learning measure	Immediate
	DEL agreed to contact the Voluntary and Community Representative to provide further details on the progress of Measure 2.8	Immediate
DARD Action Plan	The Managing Authority to investigate the methodology used by Departments to measure job creation and provide details of their findings at the next meeting	Next meeting
	The Managing Authority to amend Programme Complement to reflect the changes agreed by the Monitoring Committee and forward the revised Programme Complement to the Commission	Within 1 month
Any Other Business	The Managing Authority to circulate the allocations to the new programmes	Immediate

**List of Attendees at the BSP Monitoring Committee Meeting
Lough Neagh Discovery Centre
18 October 2006**

Members

Bill Pauley	Chair
Linda Wilson	Deputy Chair
Colette FitzGerald	BSP Managing Authority
Shaun Henry	PEACE II Managing Authority
Rodney Scott	Paying Authority (EAGGF & FIFG)
Bernadette Fullerton	Paying Authority (EAGGF & FIFG)
Margaret McKenna	Paying Authority (ERDF)
Eileen Moreland	Paying Authority (ESF)
Miceal McCoy	Agri-Rural
Frances McCandless	Voluntary & Community
Brian Murphy	Environment

Observers/Advisors

David Yormesor	European Commission
Howard Keery	DETI
Dave Bradley	DE
Pat Delaney	DRD
Peter Neeson	DSD
James Sampson	NISRA

Other Attendees

Teresa Lennon	NILGA
Alison Hanna	DSD
Sheila Maguire	DSD
Marie Cullen	DEL
James Lafferty	NICVA

Apologies

Maella Bratton	Local Government
Robin Newton	Local Government
Arnold Hatch	Local Government
Gerry Maclochlainn	Local Government
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Group
Kieran McMahon	DOE