



**Thursday 24 April 2008
Marine Court, Bangor**

Agreed Minutes

1. Attendance

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies were received from Bill Pauley, DFP, Maella Bratton, Local Government, Arnold Hatch, Local Government, Pat Colgan, SEUPB, Damien Prince, OFMDFM and Brian Murphy, Environment.

2. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the twenty first and final meeting of the Monitoring Committee and in particular the representative from BERR.

The Chair also thanked the Members who agreed to act as deputies for their respective social partner's organisations and political parties.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 05 October 2007 were accepted without change.

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 and key issues including the publicity actions carried out by the Managing Authority.

- *Commitments and Applications*

Members were advised that since the last meeting of the Committee, the figures provided show that the programme is now fully committed. The Managing Authority drew attention to the figures circulated to the Committee on the applications received and approved. They advised that the figures show a fall in the number received and approved, this was due to the removal of both the forestry applications from the Central Database and the removal of projects from the programme following the DSD internal audit on

Measure 3.3. They added that following the removal of these figures, the amended figures show that the applications received have risen by 10 and applications approved by 5.

- *Financial Progress by Fund*

The **Managing Authority representative** provided updates on the progress of each Fund including the financial targets until the end of the programme

Members were advised that ERDF, which has now entered the closure process, has achieved €499m of its €537m target. Following the latest round of Bilaterals, the Managing Authority expressed confidence that the remaining expenditure will be declared in the final claim.

The Managing Authority also advised that of the €284,986m ESF target, €259,800m has been achieved to date. Members were informed that the Managing Authority has since commenced two ESF claims and it is expected that these claims will drawdown an additional €12m, leaving a balance of €13m. DEL has advised that they may require small adjustments to the current allocations to ensure they meet their full allocation.

The Managing Authority stated that against the EAGGF target of €78m, €61.5m has now been claimed following the completion of a further drawdown in March. DARD have advised that whilst the remaining target will be challenging, they continue to closely monitor spend. It is also anticipated that a further reallocation of EAGGF funds will be required to help maximise the EU drawdown.

Members were also advised that of the €29m FIFG target, €23.3M has been achieved to date. DARD will provide a further update to the Committee on the latest position for this fund.

- *Closure of the Programme*

The **Managing Authority representative** noted that the Closure pack was issued on 16 October to all relevant bodies and advised that the next step in this process is a formal Closure group meeting, due to take place on 6 May.

The **Chair** advised the Committee that Departments have identified additional expenditure as a contingency measure. The **ERDF Paying Authority representative** stated that this additional expenditure and all spend will be examined during the Closure process.

Following a query from the **Voluntary & Community representative** the **Chair** confirmed that departmental reallocation of funds can be

carried out by written procedure, negating the need for a formal meeting.

Following a query by the **BERR representative** on the impact of exchange rate fluctuations the **Chair** stated that Departments closely monitor exchange rates and that funding to individual projects is not affected. The Chair also endorsed the **European Commission representative's** statement that funds can be moved between measures in priorities other than ERDF.

- *Priority 1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness*

The **DETI representative** advised that their measures were progressing well towards their targets.

The **DRD representative** advised that the latest claim will enable them to achieve full spend.

- *Priority 2 Employment*

The **DEL representative** advised that whilst the Measures are virtually fully committed, readjustments between measures may be required. To this end, DEL has identified over-commitments in some of its Measures.

The **DE representative** provided a brief progress report on Measure 2.4 & 2.5. They advised that both measures were progressing well and on target to meet their objectives.

- *Priority 3 Urban and Social Revitalisation*

The **DSD representative** provided a brief overview of Measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. They advised that the measures were progressing well and on target to meet their objectives.

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

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The **DARD representative** provided an update on their measures. They advised that FIFG is still undergoing difficulty due to the lack of sufficient private expenditure within the industry to draw-down the EU funding, DARD's Fisheries Division is in continuing communication with DG Fish on the issue. The representative also advised that EAGGF has encountered difficulties in achieving full spend mainly due to a number of potential decommitments as well as the recent exchange rate fluctuations. DARD advised that they are carrying out monthly meetings with their Implementing Bodies

and that a potential reallocation of funds between measures will be required later in the year.

- *Priority 5 Environment*

The **DOE representative** advised that their element of this measure has achieved full spend.

The **DRD representative** advised that their element of this measure has also achieved full spend.

The **Monitoring Committee** noted the progress and developments outlined in the Progress report.

The **Voluntary & Community representative** commended the amount of indicators both achieved and surpassed during the life of the Programme.

Following a query from the **European Commission representative** the **DETI representative** advised that the 'SMEs supported' Priority Level Indicator was correct up to Dec 04 when spend was maximised.

5. Annual Implementation Report

The **Chair** stated that the draft 2007 Annual Implementation Report had been circulated to members and invited any comments to be forwarded to the secretariat in the next fortnight. The revised document will then be subject to written approval before submission.

6. Any other Business

The Chair thanked the members and advisors for their attendance throughout the life of the Programme.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 24 APRIL
MARINE COURT, BANGOR

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
BSP Annual Implementation Report 2007	Members to provide comments/amendments to Monitoring Committee Secretariat on draft AIR	By 9 May 2008

Annex A

List of Attendees at the BSP Monitoring Committee Meeting Marine Court, Bangor 24 April 2008

Members

Lynsey Moore	Acting Chair
John McKenna	Acting Deputy Chair
David Wilkinson	BSP Managing Authority
Frances McCandless	Voluntary & Community
Paula Hill	Paying Authority (EAGGF & FIFG)
Maura Young	Paying Authority (ERDF)
John Neill	Paying Authority (ESF)

Departmental Advisors

Stephen Langley	European Commission
Franz Pointner	European Commission
Chris Kirby	BERR
Ian Kidd	DETI
Glenn Moorcroft	DOE
Pat Delaney	DRD
Alison Hanna	DSD
Dave Bradley	DE
Gerard Colgan	NISRA

Observers

Bernard McClure	DOE
Gillian Uprichard	DE
Kelly Gallagher	NISRA
Margaret McKenna	DFP
Philip McCartney	DFP
Carson McNab	DFP
Violet McKeown	DFP

Apologies

Arnold Hatch	Local Government
Mealla Bratton	Local Government
Brian Murphy	Environment
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Group