

MINUTES

NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME FOR BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2001
STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST

1. A list of attendees and apologies is attached at Annex A.

Introduction

2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the sixth formal meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Minutes and Matters Arising

3. The minutes of the meeting of 5 July were agreed subject to two amendments:-
 - (i) **Item 3: Programme Complement: Priority 3, Measure 4, insert as new paragraph 2:-** *“The Commission representative expressed concern if the funding of this Measure were to result in the displacement of jobs in the voluntary sector.”*
 - (ii) **Item 6: Match Funding issues, paragraph 2, line 4, change the word “SOLAS” to “SOLACE”.**

Measure 3.4 Investing in Early Learning

The Chairman stated that the proposed special meeting of the Monitoring Committee had not occurred in the interval since the last meeting; however, further discussions with the Department of Education and the voluntary/community sector had taken place. The representative from the Commission registered concern about the implications for adoption of the Programme Complement. Members agreed that the Chairman take the issue forward in consultation with the relevant parties with a view to resolving the matter before the end of September.

Measure 1.4 - Local Economic Development

4. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment presented a paper to the Committee. Members were advised of the funding allocations to be made to each District Council subject to the quality of their strategic plan. Members were asked to note that a forum of District Councils to include elected representatives was being established to provide ongoing consultations. NICE has been invited by the Department to act as facilitators. The Department agreed to provide the Monitoring Committee with details of the group's purpose, membership and dates for meetings.

New Deal Provision of EU Funded Projects

5. The Department for Employment and Learning presented a paper to the Committee that outlined the possibilities and limitations to using New Deal funding to match fund EU funded projects. Guidance will be issued with application forms.

Work Programme for the Monitoring Committee

6. The Managing Authority presented a paper to Members that identified tasks to be undertaken by the Committee and proposals on a structured schedule of work. The Committee discussed the composition and remit of the various working groups, which will be set up to help the Monitoring Committee take forward the scheduled work plan. Members agreed that it was vital to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach across all Monitoring Committees and the respective working groups. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat, following consultations with the Minister, the Commission and Members of the Committees, should bring forward a substantive paper on working groups addressing the issues discussed. This paper will be presented at the next meeting in early December.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the European Structural Funds

7. A representative of OFMDFM gave a presentation on the background of the Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the European Structural Funds paper and where this sits in relation to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Committee discussed the paper and agreed that the guidance should be broadened to address Equality Mainstreaming for all Section 75 groups. Further consultation and discussion was required involving OFMDFM, DFP, proposed Section 75 Working Group and the Commission to ensure that the revised document adequately addressed Section 75 considerations and the Commission requirements on gender mainstreaming.

Equality Impact Assessment

8. A representative of the Managing Authority presented the final draft of the Equality Impact Assessment on the European Structural Funds before the document was made public. Members discussed the paper and the set up of the Section 75 working group to monitor the

emerging equality impacts. The Committee agreed to co-opt individuals from outside the Monitoring Committees and a representative from NISRA onto the working group. Members formally approved the content of the EQIA paper and asked the Secretariat to circulate as appropriate.

Degrressive Profile of Programme

9. The Managing Authority presented a paper to Members on the degressive profile of the Programme. Members discussed this paper and noted that this represented a significant challenge to commit such a large proportion of the Programme before December 2001 in line with the profile and would require careful monitoring. DETI was considering 5 various options to alleviate the problem this presented to District Councils in relation to Measure 1.4.

Application Process

10. A representative from the Managing Authority updated the Committee on the development of the electronic version of the application form. The manual version of the form was already available and the electronic version would be available on the website from the end of September. The Committee also heard of the positive feedback received following the demonstration of the website based application process in August which some members attended. However some members also registered concern at the length of the form.

Review of Programme Complement Measure Level indicators

11. A representative from NISRA introduced this paper and provided the Monitoring Committee with a summary of the findings and recommendations. It was agreed that, given the fundamental importance of monitoring indicators to the role of the Committee, further time should be allowed for members to consider the draft report, including those members unable to be present at the meeting. It

was also agreed that the Commission should be invited to provide comment on the paper. The final version of the report will be available for consideration before the next meeting.

Annual Implementation Report

12. A representative from the Managing Authority introduced the report to the Monitoring Committee paper. The Commission representative confirmed that the report appeared to fulfil the requirements subject to a fuller official response by the Commission at a later date. The Monitoring Committee formally approved the Building Sustainable Prosperity Annual Implementation Report without the inclusion of the socio-economic report.

Communications Strategy - Progress Update

13. A representative from the Managing Authority updated Members on the current position including a list of nominees from the CSF Monitoring Committee. Two further nominations from the BSP Monitoring Committee were proposed and agreed by Members. [Annie Campbell (Voluntary/Community Groups) and Brendan Mackin, (Trade Unions)]. Nominations from the PEACE Monitoring Committee will be finalised shortly and the Commission have suggested that a representative from their Belfast Office may prove helpful in the work of the Committee. The Secretariat will provide further updates as work progresses.

European Commission Systems Audit Visit

14. The Managing Authority informed the Committee of the dates, purpose and background of two European Commission Systems Audit in September and December.

Fishing Vessel Decommissioning Scheme

15. At the request of DG Fish a short paper prepared by the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development was tabled on the current position regarding the Fishing Vessel Decommissioning Scheme. The Committee noted the paper and further updates will be provided for future meetings.

Any other Business

- (i) A representative from the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels provided the Committee with an oral briefing on the function and role of the office.
- (ii) The issue of gap funding and the financial difficulty that some voluntary and community organisations were anticipating over the coming months was raised. The Chairman advised the Committee that the Managing Authority was aware of the issue.
- (iii) The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking the Committee Members for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

Schedule for Next Meeting

The next full meeting of BSP Monitoring Committee will be held on **Tuesday 4 December 2001 in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.**

ANNEX A

PROGRAMME FOR BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY – PROGRAMME MONITORING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 IN THE STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST

Members

Leo O'Reilly	Chairman
Eugene Rooney	Deputy Chairman
Mary Magowan	Voluntary and Community
Brendan Curran	Newry and Mourne District Council
John McKinney	SEUPB
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Antoinette McKeown	Equality
George O'Doherty	Paying Authority ESF
Philip Angus	Paying Authority ERDF
Noel Cornick	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG
Brian Wood	Environment Organisation

Observers/Advisors

Mr Bob Bleakley	DOE
Nuala Kerr	DFP
Janet Galbraith	DFP
Gerry Rogan	DEL
Don Harley	DSD
Howard Keery	DETI
Eileen Kelly	DG Regio – European Commission
Tony Canavan	Office of the NI Executive, Brussels
Claire Whitten	NICE
Gerry Mulligan	NISRA
Martin Tyrrell	NISRA
Gillian Ardis	DE
Pascal McCulla	Better Connections
Marion Smith	OFMDFM
Pauline Millar	OFMDFM

Apologies

Pat Mallon	Craigavon Borough Council
Mervyn Carrick	Craigavon Borough Council
Gwen Savage	Business
Miceal McCoy	Agricultural/Rural
Raymond Ferguson	Fermanagh District Council

**ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST**

Issue	Action By	Timing
Further paper on Measure 3.4, Investing in Early Learning	Managing Authority to consult further with Dept Education/NICVA.	Chairman to finalise by end of September.
Annual Implementation Report	Secretariat to circulate.	When complete
Equality Impact Assessment Report	Secretariat to circulate final version	Before end of month
Equality Mainstreaming paper	OFMDFM/Managing Authority to rework gender mainstreaming paper	Next Meeting
Communication Strategy - Report	Secretariat	Next Meeting
Working Groups paper	Secretariat	Next Meeting
Programme Complement Indicators	NISRA Report on work of Ex-ante Assessment to go to Commission for feedback/Comment	Next Meeting