

**NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME FOR
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY
MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2001
STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST**

MINUTES

1. Introduction

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

2. Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2001

The minutes of the meeting of 11 September were agreed subject to the following changes:-

Paragraph 4: Measure 1.4, Local Economic Development.

- (i) **At Line 6; Replace** *“to provide a basis for consultation on the funding allocations”* **with** *“to provide ongoing consultations”*

Paragraph 12: Annual Implementation Report

- (ii) **At Line 2; Replace** *“The Commission representative endorsed the report might also be included”* **with** *“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”*.

3. Matters Arising: Action Points from Previous Meeting

The Chairman reported that there had been progress on all the Action Points identified at the last meeting and some of these would be covered as Agenda items at this meeting. In addition the Committee was also asked to note the following:

Annual Implementation Report

Members were asked to note an amendment to 'Action by' column the following line '*subject to inclusion of summary of the socio economic position*' should be deleted.

Equality Impact Assessment

The final version has been circulated to consultees who responded to Managing Authority's consultation exercise this year. The document is now available on the website (www.Europe-dfpni.gov.uk)

4. Progress on Implementation of BSP Programme

The Chairman introduced this paper which provided information to Members on progress to date on the Implementation of the BSP programme. The paper covered the Application Database, Structural Funds Manual and details on the public call for projects. Members raised a number of queries regarding the information provided on the public call for projects. Departmental advisors provided clarification and some additional information. The Chairman emphasised that it was now important that the actual Programmes are up and running soon. The Commission representative welcomed the introduction of the Application database and agreed that it was now important that the Programme moves into the 'Live' stage. The Chairman stated that the Managing Authority would provide a further written report on Implementation of the Programme for the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

5. Application Process for Operational Programme

The Managing Authority presented this paper which provided an update on the application process for the BSP Programme. The Managing Authority representative informed Members that it was anticipated that approximately 90% of Implementing Bodies would be taking applications before the end of this year. A helpdesk would also be set up to provide advice and guidance to applicants using the website; applicants could now download on line Part A of the

application form. Members of the Committee and the Commission representative welcomed the introduction of the helpdesk. Departmental Advisors provided the Committee with updates on the applications received and the selection process within their respective Departments. The Managing Authority agreed to provide the Committee with two reports for the next Monitoring Committee meeting; one on the selection process within Departments and the second on the management of individual Measures within Departments.

6. Report from CSF Monitoring Committee

The Chairman introduced this paper which reported on the last Community Support Framework Monitoring Committee meeting held on 17 October 2001. The BSP Committee recognised the need to ensure as far as possible a gender balance in the composition of all the Working Groups. Members also discussed the Review of CSF Programme indicators and the draft paper produced by NISRA and the consultancy firm, DTZ/PIEDA. The Managing Authority agreed to circulate the formal comments on this paper by DG Regio Evaluation Unit when these became available.

7. Measure 3.4 – Early Learning

The Chairman updated members on the current position. Representatives of the Community and Voluntary sector, the Department of Education and the Managing Authority met recently to discuss the concerns raised by the Sector in relation to this Measure. Agreement in principle was reached that, subject to Ministerial approval, specific exclusion of the sector from the Measure would be removed, a source of capital support for the sector would be pursued, displacement within the sector would be carefully monitored and a specific review of the Measure would be included in the Mid-term Review of the Programme. The Chairman agreed that the Managing Authority would provide Members with a revised Measure sheet when Ministerial approval had been given, this would then allow the

Committee to complete its approval of the entire Programme Complement.

8. Interim Gap Funding Arrangements – Update

The Chairman introduced this paper to the Committee outlining the Ministers announcement on Gap Funding arrangements for the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme. The Minister had confirmed continued financial support for the Community and Voluntary Groups and gave details of the extension to the current Gap Funding arrangements. The Chairman also advised Members that arrangements are now being considered for the closure of the Gap Funding issue and the Managing Authority would update the Committee at their next meeting. Some Monitoring Committee Members expressed concern at the closure of Gap Funding arrangements and they indicated this may cause community/voluntary organisations difficulties.

9. Working Groups Report

A representative from the Managing Authority introduced this paper which set out the arrangements for the Working Groups to be established under the Community Support Framework and the basic principles under which they operate. Members discussed the Terms of Reference, membership of all Working Groups and the need for planned scheduling of meetings; this may encourage participation across all the various sectors.

Members also discussed the Cross-Committee Working Groups on Mainstreaming Equality; Communication and Information and the Finance Working Group which the BSP Monitoring Committee agreed to set up specifically to monitor financial issues surrounding the Operational programme. Both the Voluntary/Community Sector and the Equality Commission representatives registered their interest in membership of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group.

The Committee agreed the need for a co-ordinated approach across all three Monitoring Committees, ie Community Support Framework, Building Sustainable Prosperity and PEACE II. The Chairman asked that both Monitoring Committee Secretariats meet to consider a co-ordinated approach on Working Groups and report back to both the BSP and PEACE II Monitoring Committees. The Secretariat will also draft Terms of Reference for the Finance Working Group for consideration by the Monitoring Committee.

The NICE representative informed the Committee that a small ad hoc Working Group of the Committee had prepared a draft paper proposing a structured approach to the work of the Committee for consideration by the Managing Authority. The Committee would have sight of this for consideration before the next meeting.

10. Report from Communication and Information Working Group

A representative from the Managing Authority introduced this report from the Communications and Information Working Group, which met for the first time in November. The European Commission representative advised members that DG Regio will circulate a paper on the Communication Strategy to the BSP and PEACE II Monitoring Committees when this becomes available early in the New Year. The Secretariat will seek a nomination from the PEACE II Monitoring Committee for the Communications and Information Working Group, which will meet again in January 2002.

11. Programme Complement

This paper from the Managing Authority covered the Commission's comments on the Programme Complement detailed in their letter of 16 October 2001. Members were asked to note the Commission's comments and agree the action required to amend the Programme Complement and consider the recommendations for its improvement. The Committee agreed to amend the financial tables in the Programme Complement to match the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme

and submit the revised table to the Commission. It also agreed to request a formal 'Commission Decision' to amend the Programme financial table and redraft the Programme Complement financial table to reflect the Measure sheet information.

The Chairman stated that Managing Authority would provide the Monitoring Committee with a revised version of the Programme Complement Measures highlighting the changes agreed and those recommended by the Commission. The Managing Authority and NISRA will also provide the Committee with a paper on the Performance Reserve.

12. Review of Programme Complement Indicators

The Chairman introduced this paper on the Review of Programme Complement Indicators produced by NISRA and the Consultancy firm DTZ PIEDA. The NISRA representative briefed members on the paper and referred to the Commission's written response as outlined in their letter of 29 October. Government Departments will provide comments on the paper before the final version is put to the Monitoring Committee for approval and inclusion in the revised Programme Complement. The NISRA representative also agreed to examine the presentation of information and data.

13. Environmental Impact of BSP Programme

The NISRA representative introduced this paper which summarised the content of the ECOTEC Environmental Assessment of the Community Support Framework. The Monitoring Committee noted the contents of the paper and details for the training seminars in Development Path Analysis for Departmental representatives.

14. Mainstreaming Equality in the European Structural Funds

The Chairman introduced this paper which was based on the Gender Mainstreaming paper produced by OFMDFM and considered at the September meeting of the BSP Monitoring Committee. Members also

noted the Commission's comments on the paper as outlined in their letter of 29 October 2001.

The Equality Commission representative informed the Committee that they were still considering the draft and would send comments to OFMDFM. Members also suggested that the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group should have an opportunity to consider the draft. The Committee agreed that other strands of work required to consolidate and refine guidance available on these issues should continue including seeking information on the work being done in the South and elsewhere in the UK, and particularly in Scotland. The Chairman agreed to write to OFMDFM outlining the Committee's position and confirming the paper may be issued as a 'working draft' to Departments for selection of projects.

15. Any Other Business

Measure 4.2b Food Processing Development

The DARD representative introduced a paper on Measure 4.2b – Food Processing Development. The Committee noted the contents of the paper and approved the proposal from DARD to proceed with limited Measure 2B in line with the European Commission ruling as detailed.

North/South Gas Pipelines

The DETI representative informed the Committee that a paper on the North/South Gas pipelines would be available before the next meeting.

Chairman

The Chairman informed the Monitoring Committee that as he was moving on to a new post in January, a new Chairman (Bill Pauley) would be in place for the next meeting. Members thanked the Chairman for his contribution and wished him well in his new job.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next full meeting of BSP Monitoring Committee will be held on **Tuesday 26 March 2001, in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown.**

**ACTION POINTS FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2001, STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST**

ISSUE	ACTION BY	TIMING
Commission request update on implementation of BSP Programme	Secretariat	Next meeting
Report on selection process for projects within Departments	Secretariat	Next meeting
Report on Measures being managed by existing Departments	Secretariat	Next meeting
Measure 3.4 – Early Learning	Secretariat to issue revised Measure Sheet when available	Before next meeting
Gap Funding	Secretariat to issue update to Committee	Next meeting
Membership of Monitoring Committee	Secretariat to review attendance at Monitoring Committee meetings.	Next meeting
Working Groups – Membership	Secretariat to bring forward proposals to Committee on representation	Before next meeting
Working Groups – Co-ordination across all Monitoring Committees	Secretariat to liaise with PEACE II Monitoring Committee Secretariat and co-ordinate membership of all Working Groups	Before next meeting
Finance Working Group	Secretariat to produce outline T.O.R for Monitoring Committee approval	Before next meeting
Communication and Information Working Group	DG Regio to issue report on Communication Strategy to Secretariat	Before next meeting
Programme Complement – Performance Reserve	Secretariat/NISRA to produce comprehensive paper for Monitoring Committee on Performance Reserve	Before next meeting
Programme Complement – Changes/Amendments	Secretariat/NISRA to provide Committee with revised version of Programme Complement (highlighting changes) for their approval	Before next meeting

ISSUE	ACTION BY	TIMING
Programme Complement - Indicators	NISRA to prepare final version of Performance Indicators for Committee	Next meeting
Mainstreaming Equality – An Outline Draft Guide for EU Structural Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="746 383 1209 533">(i) Mainstreaming Equality Working Group to consider Draft Guide and develop further <li data-bbox="746 544 1209 734">(ii) Secretariat, through Working Group, to seek information on work on equality issues in ROI and Scotland <li data-bbox="746 745 1209 891">(iii) Secretariat to ensure Draft Guide is available to Departments/IFBs for selection of projects 	<p data-bbox="1230 383 1406 454">Before next meeting</p> <p data-bbox="1230 544 1406 616">Before next meeting</p> <p data-bbox="1230 745 1385 772">Immediate</p>
Mainstreaming Equality – An Outline Draft Guide for EU Structural Funds	Chair of Committee to write to OFMDFM on paper outlining Committee's current position	Immediate

ANNEX A

PROGRAMME FOR BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2001

Members

Leo O'Reilly	Chairman
Eugene Rooney	Deputy Chair
Annie Campbell	Voluntary and Community
John McKinney	SEUPB
Mary McSorley	Equality
Pat Mallon	Craigavon Borough Council
Brendan Curran	Newry & Mourne District Council
Gwen Savage	Business
Miceal McCoy	AGRI Rural
George O'Doherty	Paying Authority ESF
Philip Angus	Paying Authority ERDF
Noel Cornick	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG

Observers/Advisors

John Kennedy	NICE
Nuala Kerr	DFP
Don Harley	DSD
Howard Keery	DETI
Eileen Kelly	DG Regio European Commission
Manfred Beschel	DG Regio European Commission
Orlaigh Quinn	DG Employment European Commission
Martin Tyrrell	NISRA
Gillian Ardis	Department of Education
Bruce Fitzsimmons	Department of Education
Stephen Sandford	Department of Education
Ciaran Doherty	John Hume's Office
John Clarke	Jim Nicholson's Office
Sean Clarke	NIAPA
Trevor Polley	SOLACE

Apologies

Mervyn Carrick	Craigavon Borough Council
Raymond Ferguson	Fermanagh Borough Council
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions