

**NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME FOR
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY
MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2002
SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN**

1. Attendance

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Brendan Curran, (Local Government) Tony Canavan, (OFMDFM) and Evelyn Cummins, (DARD).

2. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the eighth formal meeting of the Monitoring Committee. In his opening remarks the Chairman introduced himself to the Committee and stated that he was looking forward to working with the Committee in the delivery of the BSP Programme. The Chairman also welcomed Robin Shaw to the BSP Managing Authority and Nuala Kerr, in her new role with the Managing Authority role for PEACE II.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of 4 December were agreed subject to two amendments:-

(i) Paragraph 8 Interim Gap Funding Arrangements:- Insert at line 9

“Some Monitoring Committee Members expressed concern at the proposed closure of gap funding arrangements and indicated this may cause community/voluntary organisations difficulties;”

(ii) Annex A List of Attendees:-

Orlaigh Quinn remove “DG Regio” replace with “DG Employment”.

4. **Action Points/Matters Arising**

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 Chairman agreed to circulate to members a paper produced by the small Ad Hoc Working Group on the work of the Monitoring Committees.

5. **Progress on Implementation of Programme**

The Chairman introduced this regular item on the agenda which provided an update on progress on the implementation of the BSP Operational Programme. The Chairman reported on applications data, Working Groups, State Aids, the Structural Funds Manual, the Annual Implementation Review and Measures 3.4 – Early Learning and Measure 1.4 – Local Economic Development.

Departmental representatives provided updates on Calls for Projects; selection procedures for projects and commitment and spend.

The Monitoring Committee discussed the implementation of the Programme. Concerns in relation to the application process, the role of Intermediary Funding Bodies, guidance available and access to the Website. The Chairman informed the Committee that the Managing Authority, NICVA representatives and the European Commission had agreed to meet to discuss these issues on Wednesday 27 March. It was agreed that, where appropriate, immediate steps would be taken to address the difficulties.

DETI representatives asked the Committee to consider the paper on Priority 1 – Economic Growth and Competitiveness. The Monitoring committee formally approved the proposal to move 30 meuro from Measure 1(b) “Competitiveness Excellence Support” to Measure 8(b) “Energy Infrastructure” and seek the Commission’s agreement to this proposal.

6. **Report from CSF Monitoring Committee**

The Chairman introduced this paper which reported on the last Community Support Framework Monitoring Committee meeting held on 6 February 2002. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to issue to the agri-rural representative a copy of the presentation made on the Moland Project at the last CSF meeting. The report from the CSFMC included a verbal report from the Chairman on progress on the review of the Common Chapter.

7. **Gap Funding Update**

The Chairman introduced this paper to the Committee outlining the Minister's announcement on Gap Funding Arrangements for the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme. The Minister announced that Gap Funding would continue but on a declining profile until the end of April 2002. Members raised the question of the extension of Gap Funding beyond April in the light of information that economic appraisals could take several months to complete.

The Chairman agreed to investigate the time required to complete economic appraisals. The Trade Union and voluntary/community representatives agreed to provide the Monitoring Committee Secretariat further information on some of the employment and redundancy issues around the closure of Gap Funding.

8. **Annual Implementation Report (AIR)**

The Managing Authority introduced this paper to the Committee which provided information on the background to the Annual Implementation Report and the content and timetable for delivery of the AIR. As part of the consultation process the Committee agreed to set up a small ad hoc Working Group and nominated the Business Sector representative and the Voluntary/Community Sector representative to participate. The Managing Authority confirmed that the Horizontal Principles, Social Inclusion and a Labour Market Assessment would be included in the AIR.

9. **Programme Complements Amendments**

A member of the Managing Authority introduced this paper to the Committee. The Committee approved the textual amendments and revised financial tables included in the amended Measure Sheets of the Programme Complement.

The Committee agreed that the textual amendments and financial tables within the Measure Sheets could now be incorporated into the Programme Complement and updated on the EU Website.

The Committee agreed the revised Operational Programme Financial Tables and asked the Secretariat to forward to European Commission for a Commission Decision.

The Monitoring Committee agreed to consider revised Measure indicators and finalise the Programme Complement at the next meeting.

10. **Performance Reserve and Review of Indicators for BSP Programme Complement**

A representative from NISRA outlined the contents of this paper on the Performance Reserve.

Departmental representatives agreed to review and update current target areas. NISRA agreed to bring these forward to the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

The Managing Authority agreed to circulate to members the proposed changes on performance indicators with the revised Programme Complement before the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

11. **Mid Term Evaluation**

The Managing Authority introduced this paper to members which set out proposals on the mid-term evaluation for the Building Sustainable

Prosperity Operational Programme. The Committee agreed the proposals set out in the paper. The Committee agreed to establish a mid-term Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) to include the Chairman of the BSP Monitoring Committee, a representative of NISRA, OFMDFM, the European Commission and permanent members from each of the Monitoring Committees. The Monitoring Committee nominated the Business and Agri-rural Sector representatives to the Group and agreed there should be voluntary and community sector representation from one of the three Monitoring Committees. The Secretariat agreed to confirm full membership and report on the first meeting of the Group to the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

12. Working Group Report

The Managing Authority representative introduced this paper to the Committee which outlined progress on the latest developments on Working Groups. Members asked the Secretariat to provide details on members preferences for the Groups, including a list of current membership, contact details of relevant Secretariats and dates of future meetings.

The Chair of the Communication and Information Working Group (CIWG) updated the Committee on the work of his Group. The Committee were informed that the Group had elected a Chair, drafted Terms of Reference, and agreed to organise a communications seminar for implementing bodies, LSPs, IFBs and the 3 Monitoring Committees. The CIWG Secretariat will contact the European Commission for advice on the seminar. Members of the CIWG recently attended a conference in Brussels on Publicity Strategies which the European Commission explained was to encourage best practice across Objective 1 Regions.

The Chair of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group updated the Committee on the first meeting of the Group. The Chair informed the Committee that the PEACE II Monitoring Committee had been asked to nominate another member to the Working Group. The Group agreed a

number of amendments to the draft Terms of Reference and the OFMDFM Mainstreaming Equality Guide. The Working Group also discussed the consultation process with Section 75 Groups and gender balance within Monitoring Committees. The Working Group will bring forward formal proposals to the Monitoring Committees on Gender Balance.

The Departmental Advisors updated members on the current position on the respective CSF Working Groups, Human Resource Development (DEL), Fisheries (DARD), and Information Society (DETI).

Members agreed that the Trade Union representative replace the agricultural representative as the BSP Monitoring Committee nominee on the Human Resource Development Working Group.

The Chairman of the Monitoring Committee suggested that some of the work undertaken by Mid-term Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) may negate the immediate need for a BSP Finance Working Group. The Committee agreed to review further when the ESG had progressed some of its work.

13. Membership of Monitoring Committee – Update

The Chairman introduced this paper which provided information to members on a number of issues regarding membership of Monitoring Committees. The Secretariat will write to all nominating organisations and bodies asking them to confirm current membership of all three Monitoring Committees. The Committee agreed to build into this request the proposals on gender balance outlined earlier by the Chair of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Managing Authority gave a presentation on the Structural Funds Monitoring Database.

15. **Any Other Business**

The Committee agreed to meet on **Thursday 23 May at 10.00 am in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.**

Attendees at Building Sustainable Prosperity Monitoring Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2002

Mr Bill Pauley	Chairperson BSP Monitoring Committee
Mr Eugene Rooney	Vice Chairperson BSP Monitoring Committee
Mr John McKinney	Chairperson PEACE II Monitoring Committee
Mrs Annie Campbell	Voluntary and Community Sector
Mr Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Mrs Patricia Mallon	Local Government Sector
	(Agenda Items 1-8 only)
Mr Miceal McCoy	Agri-Rural Sector
Mrs Gwen Savage	Business Sector
Prof Brian Wood	Environment Sector
Mrs Mary McSorley	Equality
(Substitute for Antoinette McKeown)	(Agenda Items 1-8 only)
Mr Philip Angus	Paying Authority (ERDF)
Mr Noel Cornick	Paying Authority (EAGGF/FIFG)
Mr George O'Doherty	Paying Authority (ESF)

Advisors/Observers

Mrs Eileen Kelly	DG Regio
Mrs Orleigh Quinn	DG Employment
Mr Howard McNally	DG Fish
Mr Richard Hodgett	DE Advisor
Mr Stephen Creagh	DRD Advisor
Mr Noel Lavery	DETI Advisor
Mr Don Harley	DSD Advisor
Mr Ken Gibson	IFI Observer
Mrs Michelle Furphy	NISRA
Mr John Kennedy	NICE
Mr Trevor Polley	LGSFG
Mr Ciaran O'Doherty	John Hume's Office
Mrs Nuala Kerr	SEUPB
Mr Howard Keery	DETI Advisor
Mr Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority
Mr Shaun Henry	SEUPB

Apologies

Mr Brendan Curran

Mr Tony Canavan

Evelyn Cummins

Local Government Sector

OFMDFM (Office of the NI Executive in
Brussels)

DARD

ACTION POINTS FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2002, SEAGOE HOTEL, PORTADOWN

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMING
<p><u>Draft Minutes of 4 December 2001:</u> (i) Paragraph 8: Include reference to Social Partner's representatives concern at future Gap Funding arrangements; (ii) List of attendees: Orleigh Quinn DG Employment; (iii) Paragraph 9: NICE Paper on work of Monitoring Committees to be circulated.</p>	<p>Secretariat to amend minutes and issue final version. " " " " " " Secretariat to issue to BSPMC members.</p>	<p>Immediate. " Immediate.</p>
<p><u>Implementation of BSP Programme</u> NICVA meeting with Managing Authorities/European Commission on application process/guidance available etc.</p>	<p>Managing Authorities to liaise with NICVA following meeting with NICVA on 27 March.</p>	<p>Before next meeting.</p>
<p><u>CSF Monitoring Committee meeting – 6 February</u> The Moland Project.</p>	<p>Secretariat to issue copy of presentation to Agric Rural representative.</p>	<p>Immediate.</p>
<p><u>Closure of Gap Funding:</u> Employment/Redundancy Issues. Economic Appraisals</p>	<p>Trade Union and Voluntary Community Sector Representatives to provide Secretariat further information. Chairman to investigate time to complete Economic Appraisals.</p>	<p>Before next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Annual Implementation Report:</u> Working Group meeting. Social Inclusion and labour market assessment. Horizontal Principles.</p>	<p>Secretariat to arrange meeting. NISRA and Secretariat to include in A.I.R. During drafting of document.</p>	<p>Late April. Next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Programme Complement Amendments:</u> (i) Revised Operational Programme Financial Tables. (ii) Agreed textual amendments to Measure Sheets; and (iii) Measure Sheet Financial Tables.</p>	<p>Secretariat to forward to European Commission for Commission Decision. Secretariat to update Programme Complement and include in final draft EUD Website will also be updated.</p>	<p>Immediate. Immediate.</p>

<p><u>Review of Performance Indicators</u> Revised Performance Indicators to be included in final version of Programme Complement.</p>	<p>i. Secretariat/NISRA to circulate to BSPMC for comment by written procedure; ii. Secretariat to include as tracked changes in final version.</p>	<p>April 2002. Next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Performance Reserve:</u> Departments and NISRA to review and update current action target figures.</p>	<p>NISRA to update and present to BSPMC.</p>	<p>Next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Mid-Term Evaluation:</u> Evaluation Steering Group.</p>	<p>Secretariat to confirm full membership and report on first meeting.</p>	<p>Next meeting.</p>
<p><u>Working Groups;</u> <u>Mainstreaming Equality</u> (i) Finalise full membership and seek Monitoring Committees approval; (ii) Agree Terms of reference; and seek Monitoring Committees approval; (iii) Mainstreaming Equality Guide to issue in draft form; further consultation with Section 75 Groups. (iv) Gender balance proposals.</p> <p><u>Communications and Information</u> Working Group to seek guidance/information on seminar from Commission.</p> <p><u>Fisheries</u> Report on first meeting, draft Terms of Reference and membership;</p> <p><u>Human Resource Development</u> Report on first meeting; drafts Terms of Reference and membership.</p> <p><u>Information Society</u> Report on first meeting; draft Terms of Reference and membership.</p> <p><u>Environment</u> Report on First meeting; draft Terms of Reference and membership.</p> <p><u>Membership</u> List of all Working Groups with current membership list, contact details of relevant Secretariats etc.</p>	<p>Mainstreaming Equality Working Group to take forward. “ “ “ “</p> <p>CIWG Secretariat.</p> <p>Fisheries Working Group – DARD.</p> <p>Human Resource Development Working Group – DEL.</p> <p>Information Society Working Group – DETI.</p> <p>Environment Working Group – DOE.</p> <p>Secretariats to issue to BSPMC; CSFMC and PEACE II.</p>	<p>Next BSPMC meeting (23 May). “ “ “</p> <p>Immediate.</p> <p>Next BSPMC meeting (23 May).</p> <p>Next BSPMC meeting (23 May).</p> <p>Next BSPMC meeting (23 May).</p> <p>Next BSPMC meeting (23 May).</p> <p>Immediate.</p>
<p><u>Monitoring Committee</u> <u>Membership</u> Letter to issue on current membership, substitutes etc.</p>	<p>Secretariat to write to nominating organisations.</p>	<p>Before next meeting.</p>