

**NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME FOR  
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY  
MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY 23 MAY 2002  
STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST**

***MINUTES***

**1. Attendance**

A list of attendees is attached at Annex A. Apologies received from Gwen Savage, (Business Sector) Mervyn Carrick, (Local Government) Andrew Bayer, (Department of Trade and Industry (GB)) and Trevor Polley, (Local Government Structural Funds Group).

**2. Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the ninth formal meeting of the Monitoring Committee. In his opening remarks the Chairman welcomed Ann McKernan, who attended as the Equality representative.

**3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 26 March were agreed subject to two amendments:-

**Paragraph 11 Mid-Term Evaluation:-**

**Line 7** delete 'one' and after Permanent insert 'Members'.

**Line 9** after 'Business' insert 'and Agri-rural' and after 'sector' insert 'Representatives'.

#### **4. Action Points**

The Chairman reported substantive progress on all the action points identified at the last meeting. In addition the Committee received updates on the following topics:-

##### **4.1 Social Representatives Meeting with Managing Authority and European Commission**

The Managing Authority representative provided Members with a verbal update on the meeting between NICVA representatives, European Commission and Managing Authorities of the BSP and PEACE II. The Managing Authority representative reported progress on a number of issues including economic appraisals and the application process. The Managing Authority and the European Commission have agreed to discuss the issues around the application forms over the next few months. The European Commission ESF representative will examine application forms from other regions and report back to the Monitoring Committee. The Chair asked Members to note that the application form would be covered during the Mid-term Evaluation.

The Trade Union representative agreed to provide the Managing Authority with further information on employment and redundancy issues around the closure of Gap Funding.

##### **4.2 NICE Paper on Work of the Monitoring Committees**

Members agreed that this should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting and the Chairman agreed to circulate a discussion paper on the proposals outlined in the NICE paper before the next meeting.

##### **4.3 Mid-term Evaluation**

The Chairman reported on recent meetings of the Evaluation Steering Group. The European Commission and Monitoring Committee were circulated with the Terms of Reference drawn up by the Evaluation Steering Group.

#### **4.4 Working Groups**

The Chair invited members of the Committee who serve on the various Working Groups to provide verbal updates on progress.

The Voluntary and Community representative updated the Committee on the work of the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group including a brief report on the Gender Mainstreaming Conference held in Swansea. The Committee were also informed that the Group aim to agree final membership and Terms of Reference at its next meeting on 28 May.

The Chair of the Communication and Information Working Group updated the Committee on the work of the Group. Members were informed that the Group would meet later that day to discuss the Communications Seminar to be held on 12 June.

The DEL representative provided an update on the work of the Human Resources Development Working Group. The Committee were informed that the Group met on 20 May and draft Terms of Reference were circulated to Working Group members for comment. The HRD Working Group will meet again on 25 June.

The DETI Advisor updated the Committee on the work of Information Society Working Group. The Group were due to meet again on 27 May.

The DARD representative updated members on the Fisheries Working Group.

The Managing Authority representative advised Members that a meeting had been held with the Department of the Environment and the Environment and Heritage Service at which it was agreed that discussions would be held by them with environmental interests with a view to establishing the Working Group. The Voluntary/Community

representative registered interest on membership of the Environment Working Group.

#### **4.5 Membership Issues**

The Chair advised the Committee that the Managing Authority recently issued a letter to sectoral interests on refreshment of membership of both the BSP and CSF Monitoring Committees. The Monitoring Committee noted that the Agri-Rural representative represented the Agri-Rural Forum on the BSP Monitoring Committee.

#### **4.6 Progress on Implementation of the BSP Programme**

The European Commission representative requested DETI to write seeking formal approval of proposals to move 30 meuro from Measure 1.1(b) “Competitiveness Excellence Support” to Measure 1.8(b) “Energy Infrastructure”, as agreed at the last Monitoring Committee meeting.

### **5. BSP Annual Implementation Report**

The Chairman introduced this item on the agenda and advised Members that following meetings of the ad hoc Working Group, a draft of the BSP Implementation Report was circulated to the Monitoring Committee on 14 May. The Managing Authority representative advised Members that some restructuring and further work were required on the report to meet EU regulatory requirements. The Managing Authority and European Commission agreed to work with the ad hoc Working Group on the draft report. The NISRA advisor agreed to include revised target figures on the Performance Reserve in the Annual Implementation Report.

The Committee authorised the Ad Hoc Working Group to sign-off on the final version of the report before submission to the European Commission. The Managing Authority will also circulate the final version to the Monitoring Committee.

## **6. Revised Programme Complement**

The Chairman outlined amendments received from the Business Sector representative and the Committee agreed to include in the revised Programme Complement.

Members agreed to include in the revised Programme Complement amendments on the Performance Reserve and Programme Complement Indicators.

The Chair advised Members that further 'editorial' changes including revised contact points, updated information on NATURA 2000 and new names of Departments would be included in the final version.

The Managing Authority representative updated the Committee on the position of the Programme Complement Financial Tables. According to the European Commission, the financial tables were not in conformity with the Operational Programme because the national funding had been reduced in Priorities 1, 3 and 5. Although the total public funding has matched that agreed in the Programme, it was not permissible to reduce the amounts agreed at Priority level. This could only be done on the basis of a socio-economic argument and none had been put forward. Members agreed that the Managing Authority continue the work with the European Commission on the revised Financial Tables and bring the final version forward to the Monitoring Committee for approval by either written procedure or formal meeting, dependent upon whether the public funding was restored to the original levels or a socio-economic argument was formulated.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Members noted that the Agri-rural representative had joined the Mid-term Evaluation Steering Group (ESG).

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The Secretariat to find an appropriate date and venue for the next meeting before the end of October 2002.

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME MONITORING  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MAY 2002**

**Members**

Bill Pauley	Chairman
Eugene Rooney	Deputy Chair
Annie Campbell	Voluntary and Community
Brendan Curran	Local Government
Anne McKernan Deputising for Antoinette McKeown	Equality
Brendan Mackin	Trade Unions
Patricia Mallon	Local Government
Miceal McCoy	Agri/Rural/Fisheries
Brian Wood	Environment
George O'Doherty	Paying Authority ESF
Philip Angus	Paying Authority ERDF
Noel Cornick	Paying Authority EAGGF/FIFG

**Observers/Advisors**

Richard Hodgett	DE Advisor
Pauline Murray	DRD Advisor
Don Harley	DSD Advisor
Peter Sangster	IFI
Michelle Furphy	NISRA
Paul Donnelly	NISRA
Eileen Kelly	DG Regio European Commission
Orlaigh Quinn	DG Employment European Commission
Nuala Kerr	SEUPB
Howard Keery	DETI Advisor
William Dukelow	Office of the NI Executive, Brussels
Robin Shaw	BSP Managing Authority

**Other attendees:-**

Simon Clarke	DSD
Tom Manson	DSD

**Apologies**

Gwen Savage	Business Sector
Mervyn Carrick	Local Government
Andrew Bayer	DTI
Trevor Polley	Local Government Structural Funds Support Group

**ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM BSP MONITORING COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 23 MAY 2002, STORMONT HOTEL  
BELFAST**

Issue	Action	Timing
<b><u>Draft Minutes of Tuesday 26 March 2002</u></b>		
(i) Paragraph 11: Line 7 Mid-Term Evaluation Line 7: Delete 'one' and after 'Permanent' insert 'members'.	Secretariat to amend minutes and issue final version	Before next meeting
(ii) Paragraph 11: Line 9 After 'Business' insert 'and Agri-Rural'; and after 'Sector' insert 'Representatives'.	Agri-rural to join Mid-term Evaluation Steering Group	
<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>		
(i) Implementation of BSP Programme; Application forms.	EC to research similar application forms throughout UK and Ireland and follow-up with Managing Authority, Managing Authority to report back to Monitoring Committee.	Before next meeting
(ii) NICE Paper on Work of Monitoring Committees	Managing Authority will issue response/discussion paper on NICE proposals. Secretariat to place on Agenda for next meeting.	Before next meeting
(iii) Closure of Gap Funding: Redundancy/Employment issues	Trade Union representative to bring forward further information.	Before next meeting
(iv) Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agendas; Work Plans, Meetings etc</li> <li>• HRD Working Group; and</li> <li>• Information Society</li> <li>• Environment DOE Working Group</li> </ul>	Managing Authority to co-ordinate information with European Commission	Ongoing
	SEUPB to co-ordinate membership from PEACE II Monitoring Committee	Before next meeting
	Managing Authority to liaise with Department of Environment on Progress	Before next meeting

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>
(v) Request seeking formal approval of proposals to move 30 meuro from 1.1(b) "Competitiveness Excellence Support" to Measure 1.8(b) "Energy Infrastructure".	DETI to write to European Commission	Immediate
<b><u>BSP Annual Implementation Report – Draft and Final Version</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Managing Authority to structure content of the latest draft discuss with European Commission</li> <li>(ii) Ad Hoc Working Group to sign off on final draft on behalf of Monitoring Committee</li> <li>(iii) Managing Authority to issue AIR to European Commission</li> <li>(iv) Secretariat to circulate final version to Monitoring Committee</li> </ul>	<p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Week Commencing 18 June</p> <p>Before 30 June</p> <p>Before next meeting</p>
<b><u>Programme Complement: Revised Financial Tables</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Managing Authority to clear final tables with Monitoring Committee – by written procedure <u>or</u> formal meeting.</li> <li>(ii) Managing Authority to issue <u>agreed</u> final version of financial tables to European Commission</li> </ul>	<p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Before next meeting</p>