Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership

European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme for England (2014-2020)

European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Committee

Organisational Working Group

Meeting note – Tuesday 25th August 2015

2:00pm at County Buildings, Stafford

Attendees Name	Representation/Organisation
Representing HMG Managing Authorities	
Jo Rushton	DWP
Harjinder Dharmi	DWP
Representing Staffordshire Districts	
Simon Smith	Newcastle Borough Council
James Roberts	Tamworth Borough Council
Representing Higher Education	
Paul Hodgkinson	Keele University
Emma Davies	Staffordshire University
Representing Further Education, Skills & Employment	
Representing ESF Opt In Programmes	
Julie Obada	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Anthony Baines	Staffordshire County Council
Representing LEP Local Authority Accountable Bodies	
Julie Evans	Staffordshire County Council
Mark Connell	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Representing Voluntary and Community Sector	
Jill Norman	Support Staffordshire
Representing Business Support	
Geoff Riley	Business Innovation Centre
Representing Joint Working with GBSLEP	
Observers	
Chris Read	Staffordshire County Council
Apologies	
Nigel Senior	Staffordshire County Council
Thomas Blackmore	DCLG
Robert Boucherat	South Staffs College
Kate Round	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Sajid Hashmi	VAST
Pete Long	DWP
Debbie Harris	Cannock Chase District Council
Adele Cope	Staffordshire Chambers
Andy Greenhough	Stoke College
Peter Hamid	DCLG

1. Introductions

Colleagues were welcomed to the meeting by Mark Connell. There were no outstanding actions from the previous meeting of 14th July.

2. ESIF ERDF first bidding call

All applicants have now been informed of the outcomes of their outline bids by DCLG. Those that have been asked to submit a full application have been given a deadline of 5th November. There were strategic fit issues with some of the bids so these didn't get through DCLG's Gateway Assessment. These applicants can re-submit their bid but as they didn't pass the Gateway Assessment there is no feedback so applicants may have to contact the LEP or ESIF Committee to better understand why their application was not successful. The Technical Assistance bid is now progressing to full application stage with a mid-September deadline. A table showing the responses to the first round of calls was distributed to the group & questions followed.

3. ESIF ERDF second bidding call

The second bidding round is now open with a deadline of 25th September. The group was asked if they knew of any bids coming forward. 2 were identified from Keele University and probably AMRIC will be submitting also. The appraisal process will follow the same pattern as in Round 1.

4. ESIF ESF Opt ins

Julie Obada & Anthony Baines gave a presentation on the latest position on the 3 Opt In programmes. The DWP has an anticipated call for end September, the SFA bid is almost ready to go and the Big Lottery is to be launched in October.

The P4 Skills, Employment & Social Inclusion Commissioning Plan & Prospectus 2014-2020 has now been completed.

Actions:

- The Opt-in task & finish group will include MA members in future.
- More publicity of the programme is needed.

5. EAFRD – first bidding calls

The launch of the first bidding call is now not planned until September and will focus on Tourism and Business Development themes. The call will be open for a 3 month bidding window co-ordinated by the ESIF Committee and promoted via the Staffordshire Rural Forum .

6. Communications Plan

- A partner engagement workshop is planned for end September/early October for applicants wishing to progress to full application stage. Suggestions in terms of content were welcomed from the group.
- The LEP website is currently being updated and the necessary ESIF Strategy information has been supplied to the LEP team for updating the funding pages.

7. Action & agenda items for the next ESIF Committee

Agenda items for the next OWG will be included on the agenda of the next ESIF Committee meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Action: It was suggested the email is re-sent containing details of the calls for applications for the second bidding round that was previously circulated on 7th August. This being due to the possibility of it being missed during the holiday period.

To note:

- In the next couple of months the call is expected for Financial Engineering Instruments.
- Confirmation is needed on the allocation of funds now the current exchange rate differs from the rate when ESIF was launched.
- The current spend outputs versus the national needs to be clarified.
- The ESIF Strategy needs to be updated.

9. Dates for next OWG meeting

TBC in line with the ESIF Committee meetings