

## Joint European Social Fund Update Paper for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull ESIF Committee and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire ESIF Committee

### 1. Introduction

Due to the overlapping geography of GBSLEP and SSLEP LEP boundaries (and Transition Area) status, **€34,600,000**, approximately **£26,988,000**, of the GBSLEP indicative ESIF allocation has to be committed to ESIF projects and programmes which benefit the transitional areas of the GBSLEP which are Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth and East Staffordshire. This GBSLEP Transition Area fund is split equally between ERDF and ESF (**approximately £13,494,000** for each fund)

It was agreed in June 2015 that **£6,309,778** or approximately **€8,089,460** of the GBSLEP funds would be transferred to SSLEP and form part of the SSLEP's PA1 'opt in' activity. The four districts, which make up the overlapping geography, would seek to commission PA2 activity for their area via the GBSLEP 'opt out' process.

The transfer of these funds was subject to:

1. the GBSLEP being represented at the SSLEP's ESF Task and Finish Group, who oversee programme delivery, Officers from GBSLEP are now represented on the ESF Task and Finish Group
2. Monitoring information on activity would be supplied to GBSLEP.

DWP will provide monitoring information at a Priority Axis level in line with the agreed delivery timetable and SSLEP will provide monitoring information at a district level from October 2016 in line with the SSLEP's more detailed reporting schedule

It is proposed that this flow of information be reciprocated so as SSLEP are similarly aware of GBSLEP activity taking place within the SSLEP geography

Unfortunately there was an unavoidable delay to the virement of the funds between the two LEP's, this being a new process within the programme, however this is not anticipated to be detrimental to the programme as a whole, as it has to be remembered that this is a 7 year programme, and the whole allocation will be commissioned as the programme moves into the latter years of delivery.

The initial notional allocation for the district councils was split 50:50 between the GBSLEP and the SSLEP and it is worth making the point that all 'opt in' activity that has been commissioned by SSLEP to date covers the whole SSLEP area, **including the four overlapping districts**, irrespective of whether a financial contribution has been made by GBSLEP towards the activity.

Following discussion between officers from both LEP's, it is proposed, where beneficial, to introduce 'linked' calls. This will be an open invitation for organisations/applicants to submit proposals against a published specification which could cover both LEPs including the 4 district areas.

## 2. Progress to date - Opt In programmes (see table below)

**Big Lottery (£11,002,000 ESF)** – three delivery lead organisations, in partnership with local partners, (Ixion, Business Enterprise Support and Steps to Work) have been appointed to deliver the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme over 3 sub geographies of the SSLEP area (North Staffs, Central & South Staffs and South East Staffs). Stage 2 applications have been evaluated and activity will start January 2017. SSLEP has identified a sum for investment in any BBO Phase 2; however no decision has been made regarding phase 2 of the programme.

**SFA (£18,946,900 ESF)** – eight contracts are to be awarded via the SFA as an opt-in partner. One is established in delivery, four have recently been awarded contracts and delivery started, three are in final stages of evaluation.

**DWP (£7,182,000 ESF)** - contract has been issued and delivery is expected to commence in November 2016. Whilst the contract has been awarded on the basis of a 3 year term, it was detailed in the specification and the intention notified to the MA that there is the potential for a 2 year extension.

The GBSLEP contribution now forms an integral part of this delivery programme with those wards in most need of support, being identified as priority areas for intervention.

PIA	Partner	Programme Title	Amount	Status
1.2	SFA - APM	Support individuals who are NEET	£6,499,500	Delivering
2.1	SFA – Learn Direct	Skills Support for Redundancy	£499,700	Contracted/Early Delivery
2.1	SFA - Serco	Skills Support for Basic Skills	£1,499,950	Contracted/Early Delivery
2.1	SFA - Serco	Skills Support for Intermediate/Higher Skills	£2,498,500	Contracted/Early Delivery
2.1	SFA – Skills Staffordshire	Skills Support for Retraining	£2,449,750	Contracted/Early Delivery
1.4	Big Lottery - Ixion	Building Better Opportunities North Staffordshire (Pj1)	£5,522,100	Stage 2 Application Evaluated.
1.4	Big Lottery - BES	Building Better Opportunities Stafford & South Staffordshire (Pj2)	£2,309,600	Stage 2 Application Evaluated
1.4	Big Lottery – Steps to Work	Building Better Opportunities “The Four Districts” (Pj3)	£3,170,300	Stage 2 Application Evaluated
1.1	DWP – Reed in Partnership	Unemployed and Inactive Individuals	£7,182,000	Contracted
1.1	SFA	CEIAG	£1,999,900	Contracted
1.1	SFA	Enhancing Apprenticeships	£1,999,800	Contracted
1.4	SFA	Support for the unemployed	£1,499,800	Contracted

	Investment Activity in the GBSLEP Overlapping geography
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### 3. Outcomes– GBSLEP ESF Transition Area funding

For the purposes of this update report a high level split of the target client base has been identified below. The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire targets are all based upon extensive data analysis undertaken early within the programme. This has enabled key target geographies to be identified.

All will be aware that this is a demand led programme; the target client figures identified below are based upon the percentage splits of JSA per district published on NOMIS March 2016. Much more detailed monitoring of these targets will follow in due course and shared with GBSLEP, it is anticipated that GBSLEP will do the same where the overlapping districts are concerned.

<b>BBO Phase 1 Supporting the Unemployed</b>	<b>Target Client Numbers</b>	<b>Funding (Euros)</b>
SSLEP Districts excluding Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	2062	
Districts within GBSLEP – Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	786	
<b>Sub Total</b>	2848	
<b>DWP Supporting the Unemployed and the Economically Inactive</b>	<b>Target Client Numbers</b>	<b>1.1 - 15,928,774</b>
SSLEP Districts excluding Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	2697	<b>1.2 - 9,259,259</b>
Districts within GBSLEP – Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	1103	<b>1.4 - 10,898,606</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	3800	<b>2.1 - 9,971,510</b>
<b>SFA Supporting NEETS and Reducing Worklessness through Skills Development</b>	<b>Target Client Numbers</b>	
SSLEP Districts excluding Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	7944	
Districts within GBSLEP – Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and East Staffordshire	3009	
<b>Sub Total</b>	10953	
<b>Total Investment</b>		<b>46,058,149</b>

### 4. Progress to date – non Opt In ESF open bidding calls

Following the initial call for proposals, implemented specifically for the Youth Employment Initiative, the Managing Authority sought Calls from all Local Areas from Autumn 2015

**GBSLEP** participated in their first ESF open bidding call in May/June 2016 and is preparing local context/specification for the invitation to tender for an anticipated late 2016 bidding call. This call will only cover the four overlapping districts and the rest of the GBSLEP area.

**SSLEP** is also preparing local context/specification for the anticipated open bidding call. Two potential areas have emerged for an open call: the first is for a SSLEP Skills Hub, the second is focused on HE Higher Skills, if considered suitable by all parties, linked calls could be considered for these two activities

**Skills Hub:** this will see the management and delivery of a Skills Hub, closely aligned to the SSLEP – wide Growth Hub. It will include a skills brokerage service and a training grants fund for employers wishing to upskill / reskill their staff outside of mainstream funded provision.

**Higher Education** this project will see a series of interventions in the HE sector – graduate employability support; graduate enterprise; higher apprenticeship development in LEP priority sectors.

Subject to ESIF approval, it is proposed that the SSLEP ESF Task & Finish Group continue to progress the above open calls with the MA.

## Summary of Funding Allocations

The table below summarises the SSLEP area funding by opt-in partner and PIA, and the remaining funding to the end of the whole programme.

### ESF Funding Summary

PIA	Confirmed Euro ESF Allocation		Applications Received to Date		% of Allocation Committed	Programme Extension / Open Call Intended Spend		Potential Available Spend	
	SSLEP	GBSLEP	SSLEP	GBSLEP	Total	SSLEP	GBSLEP	SSLEP	GBSLEP
1.1	18,023,391	4,606,909	14,403,056	1,525,718	70	3,620,335	3,081,191	-	-
1.2	10,525,261	649,015	9,259,259	-	83			1,266,002	649,015
1.3	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
1.4	10,627,513	2,833,536	9,604,445	1,294,161	81	1,023,068	1,539,375	-	-
1.5	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
2.1	22,091,190	-	9,971,510	-	45	6,410,256		5,709,424	-
2.2	3,112,176	-	-	-	-	2,564,103		548,073	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,379,531</b>	<b>8,089,460</b>	<b>43,238,270</b>	<b>2,819,879</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>13,617,762</b>	<b>4,620,566</b>	<b>7,523,499</b>	<b>649,015</b>

Nigel Senior/Mark Connell – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016