



**European Union**  
European Structural  
and Investment Funds

**European Structural and Investment  
Funds  
2014 - 2020**

**Growth Programme for England**

**Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Area  
ESI Funds Sub-Committee**

**Minutes of meeting held 05/12/18**

**The Growth Hub, University of Gloucester, Oxstalls Campus, GL2 9HW**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Minutes of 06/06/2018 meeting and progress of actions
3. ERDF Managing Authority Update
4. Wider ESF Update
5. EAFRD Managing Authority Update
6. ERDF Projects - Appraisal
7. ERDF Projects – Assessment Update
8. Project Presentations
9. Future ERDF Calls
10. Any Other Business

**1. Welcome and introduction**

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership area ESI Funds Sub-committee meeting.
- 1.2. Apologies were noted from Steve Lydon.
- 1.3. The Chair welcomed Phil John, MHCLG, Rachel Brain GFirst LEP and Roseanne Jeffries, RPA to the meeting.
- 1.4. Declarations of interest were noted from Richard O'Doherty and Andy Bates.

**2. Minutes of 06/06/18 meeting and progress of actions**

- 2.1. The minutes were recorded as a true and accurate record.
- 2.2. The Chair confirmed that all actions have been completed.

**3. ERDF Managing Authority Update**

- 3.1. ERDF MA provided an update on the ERDF Performance Dashboard and advised that the main change is that the LEP area total notional ERDF allocation has increased by approximately £2.4m. The increase is due to the revaluation of the euro exchange rate from 0.78 to 0.90.
- 3.2. The ERDF MA advised that the Treasury guarantee means that the Government will guarantee the fund until the end of the programme in 2020.
- 3.3. ERDF MA updated the sub-committee on the progress of ERDF projects and advised that following the revaluation of the euro exchange rate there are now additional notional funds in each of the priority axes.

3.4. In terms of pipeline projects, in PA4 one project which was previously put on a reserve list (item 7) will be brought to a future meeting for further sub-committee consideration and advice. In PA6 one appraisal is to be brought to this meeting (Canal Tow Paths – agenda item 6) for sub-committee consideration and advice.

3.5. The ERDF MA advised that a further call is likely in the Spring.

#### **4. Wider ESF Update**

4.1 The sub-committee were provided with an update on the ESF programme and were advised that a new NEETS young person (Not in Education, Employment or Training) skills project is invited to grant funding agreement. Approval for this was sought at the last meeting.

4.2 All other skills projects that have been contracted are being monitored. It was confirmed that contract review meetings are scheduled for next week.

4.3 The sub-committee were advised that an insight into an existing skills project would be provided at agenda item 8.2 by the project leaders.

4.4 It was confirmed that the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme is currently under review and the DWP letter (agenda item 4.2) confirms this process. The sub-committee were advised that Gloucestershire had performed strongly both from a delivery and audit perspective and that advice was being sought from the sub-committee as to whether any underspend should be re-allocated to the Going the Extra Mile (GEM) project.

**Sub-committee advised that they were in agreement with the re-allocation of funds.**

#### **5. EAFRD Managing Authority Update**

5.1 The EAFRD MA confirmed that the growth programme closed at the end of May. All Expressions of Interest (EOI) were reviewed by the Rural Panel and a summary of projects is provided in the EAFRD update paper (agenda item 5.1). The sub-committee were advised that applications have been very slow in coming through, but this is due to delays in applicants obtaining planning permissions.

5.2 It was confirmed the EAFRD programme has now been aligned with the ERDF and ESF European programmes and can continue to contract up to the end of 2020. The current exchange rate revaluation is being discussed but a final decision has not yet been made.

5.3 The EAFRD MA confirmed that the LEADER programme has a good pipeline, and all calls are now closed. Many of the applications have been slow in progressing with the granting of planning permission being a common reason.

#### **6. ERDF Projects – Appraisal PA6 Gloucestershire Canal Tow Paths Upgrade**

6.1 Roger Mortlock declared a conflict of interest

6.2 The sub-committee requested confirmation from the project that the project activity does not duplicate EAFRD funded initiatives. The EAFRD MA offered their support and advice.

The sub-committee advised the ERDF MA that the proposed project provided a strong strategic fit with the Gloucestershire ESIF strategy and represents good value for money. Members advised the ERDF MA to progress the application to funding agreement.

#### **7. ERDF Projects – Assessment Update PA4 ARRC (Advanced Renewables Research Centre)**

7.1 The ERDF MA advised that this project has previously been reviewed by the sub-committee at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 where the decision was taken to put

this on a reserve list. The sub-committee were advised that since the original outline application the applicant (University of Gloucestershire) wished to make a number of changes, including potentially delivering the project from Park Campus in Cheltenham rather than Berkeley as detailed in the original application.

7.2 The sub-committee advised that further information would be required to establish whether the changes proposed were so significant as to warrant a fresh outline application (which would need to be submitted in response to a new call). In order to establish whether this was the case, the applicant was requested to submit a briefing paper outlining the scope of all changes by second week of January 2019 This will then be reviewed in mid-January by a sub-group of committee members (Dev Chakraborty, Tim Littler, Andy Bates and Simon King) along with Peter Holden from the ERDF MA. It was agreed that the sub-group of committee members will have delegated responsibility to provide the advice on behalf of the wider committee.

7.3 **Action: Secretariat to set up meeting.**

## 8. Project Presentations

8.1 The GFirst LEP advised that it had put together a recording which was showcased at the GFirst LEP annual review. This highlighted four ERDF projects currently in progress in the Gloucestershire area. The projects were: Fastershire, Start and Grow Enterprise (SaGE), Inspiring Agri-technology Innovation and Gloucestershire Target 2020.

8.2 Vikki Walters and Mark Gale from GEM (Going the Extra Mile) project provided an informative introduction to the sub-committee on how this project is working and progressing, detailing some of the positive impacts the project is having in Gloucestershire.

## 9. Future ERDF Calls

9.1 The ERDF MA and Technical Assistance Project Manager provided an update to the sub-committee on the forecast spend and spend to date in each of the Priority Axes for the LEP, and a forecast of any additional spend if the performance reserve is achieved.

## 10. Any Other Business

None.

### Date of next meeting

Dates of future meetings will be confirmed in the New Year.

## Annex A – Actions

### List of Agreed Actions from 6/6/2018 Gfirst LEP Area ESI Funds Sub-committee Meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Action Assigned to
1.5	Secretariat to provide new Terms of Reference to Simon King following change of role	Secretariat – <b>Completed</b>
6.1	Matt Smith to forward Fastershire slides and Secretariat to circulate to sub-committee.	Secretariat - <b>Completed</b>

## List of Agreed Actions from 5/12/18 Gfirst LEP Area ESI Funds Sub-committee Meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Action Assigned to
7.3	Sub group meeting to be set up to discuss revised ARRC Outline Assessment (to include Dev Chakraborty, Tim Littler, Andy Bates, Simon King and Peter Holden)	Secretariat
10	Secretariat to confirm dates of future meetings	Secretariat

### Annex B - Attendee List

#### Gfirst LEP Area ESI Funds Sub-Committee 06/06/2018 meeting

##### Chair & Deputy Chair:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Adam Starkey, Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	Chair
Peter Holden, LEP Area Relationship Manager, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Acting Deputy Chair (ERDF Managing Authority)

##### Sub-Committee Members:

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Shaun Parsons, Councillor, Gloucestershire County Council	Local Authority
Bob Watters, Chair, Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum	Leader/LAG
Pete Carr, Lead Commissioner for Employment and Skills	Gloucestershire County Council
Richard O'Doherty, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Gloucestershire	Equality and Diversity & Higher Education
Tim Littler, Partner, Harrison Clark Rickerby	Employer Representation
Roger Mortlock, CEO, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Environment Interests
Matt Lennard, Head of Operations, Gloucestershire VCS Alliance	Voluntary and Community Sector
Simon King, Consultant, Hartpury University	Rural Interests
Ashley Green, Chief Executive, Gloucester City Homes	Employer Representation
Andy Bates, C.F.O., Gloucestershire College	Education, Skills & Employment

##### Others in attendance (non-members – including secretariat):

Name, title and organisation	Sector/Organisation Representing
Dev Chakraborty, Deputy Chief Executive	Gloucestershire LEP

Louise Reekie, Team Leader, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	ERDF – Managing Authority
Rachel Brain, ERDF TA Project Manager	Gloucestershire LEP
Siân Lewis, Implementation Lead Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	ERDF – Managing Authority
Phil John, Implementation Lead Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	ERDF – Managing Authority
Jo Jury, Rural Development Leads, RPA	RPA
Roseanne Jeffries, Project Manager, RPA - observer	RPA
Claire Edwards, Team Leader - Economic Growth and Strategic Planning	Gloucestershire County Council
Anne Devlin, Secretariat, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	ERDF – Managing Authority

**Apologies:**

<b>Name, title and organisation</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation Representing</b>
Claire Maguire, Senior Operations Manager, DWP	ESF - Managing Authority
Steve Lydon, Councillor, Stroud District Council	Local Authority
Mally Findlater, Head of Strategy, GFirst LEP	GFirst LEP