

ESIF-ERDF Update for VCS

ERDF

This is the thirteenth in a series to update you on the main European Funds in Greater Manchester, provided by GMCVO with the support of Network for Europe, and is part of Technical Assistance. This one covers ERDF.

Context

EAFRD still open (faster processing and better bids, now we have EoI forms and support meetings)
ESF - £50m Co-Finance call proceeding.

ERDF Call still open, new calls issued 30th June

The ERDF P1 call (Research and Innovation) is still open, with review point of 31st July and final deadline of 31st October 2017.

New Call - SUD (Sustainable Urban Development)

This was delayed because of the election, but meetings are being held, and the call went out on 30th June. The Combined Authority held a well attended meeting on 12th June (90 people) and is following up with a restricted meeting for likely bidders on 10th July. GMCVO are holding a meeting on 1st August (book now at the GMCVO link).

SUD uses existing ERDF funding, but is more flexible, with more local involvement. It is available for London and the core city regions (including G Manchester). Each area has to prepare a strategy, and say what it wishes to deliver, and then support the SUD by creating an Intermediate Body - which makes the decisions on funding. GM has an IB in place, and good plans, with a range of activities of interest to third sector organisations, for example around energy generation, conservation, or efficiency - and in public buildings such as community centres.

£21m ERDF is available for GM, with a similar amount needed for match funding (minimum project size £1m - ie 500k ERDF). It is expected there will be a range of large bids, so third sector organisations could bid in their own right, but may well be delivering part of the activity for a main contractor.

Many areas of interest, including energy conservation and retrofitting buildings, local energy generation, batteries (new technologies and cheaper, lighter ways for better storage, and smoothing demand), electric vehicles and their support. It is expected that the SUD will fund the testing and development of a range of low carbon actions for cities, including demonstrations, running projects which could then be scaled up.

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/sustainable-urban-development-low-carbon-and-research-and-innovation-call-in-greater-manchester-oc15r17s-0538>

Summative Assessments

Evaluation is an important part of European Funding - we all want to know what works! All ERDF projects are required to carry out their own Summative Assessment. These will need to be undertaken in such a way that the reports produced can be collected together nationally, to get an overview of the evaluation. And to connect to the National ERDF evaluation. Ideally, this will cover counterfactuals (comparing what happened, with what would have happened without the support). Guidance will shortly be issued to projects.

Events

1st August for SUD.

PMC

The Programme Monitoring Committee for ERDF and ESF (Growth Board) took place on 14th June. Both funds now include a report on the cross cutting themes (Sustainability, and Diversity). We asked for an update on progress with the SUDs for the next meeting in September. There was

some discussion on preparing for further ERDF funding for Growth Hubs (startups and business support) before current funding runs out

The review of LEP level ESIF committees has been completed, Gaps occur across the Trade Union/ Employer and Equality & Diversity sectors - these are being addressed.

Changes to ERDF Operational Programme

After the PMC (Growth Board) the members were informed of the detail of proposed changes to the Operational Programme, although these will need to fit with European requirements.

30th June 2017

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