

## **European Update 12th December 2016, from Network for Europe Cheshire, Cumbria, G Manchester, Lancashire, Liverpool CR**

### **Headlines**

Six years  
ESF, ERDF and EAFRD calls  
DCLG Programme Bulletin  
MAs designated

### **Autumn Statement**

On 3rd October, the Chancellor's statement confirmed all projects approved and signed before the UK leaves the EU will be fully funded. Since we are not expected to leave until at least end March 2019 and projects are typically for three years, this takes us to 2022.

The Autumn Statement of 23rd November confirmed this - see paragraph 4.5 on page 18 of the Northern Powerhouse Strategy -

*4.5 More broadly, the government has guaranteed all European Structural and Investment Fund projects signed before the Autumn Statement, and has also provided a guarantee for all projects signed after the Autumn Statement and before the UK's departure from the European Union, if they provide good value for money and are in line with domestic strategic priorities. This guarantee ensures the North's LEPs have the certainty they need to continue prioritising this funding to support local growth.*

This was reinforced with a letter from Julia Sweeney to the Growth Board (PMC) on 5th December, and letters to the individual LEP level ESIF committees

### **Calls**

Calls paused on 31st July, but are now restarting  
Projects have to be good value for money, and fit domestic strategic priorities (both are already a requirement). These two questions will now be moved to the front of the appraisal, and local partners will be asked about value for money (currently they only comment on strategic fit), although of course ESIF committees are only advisory.

### ***Calls - ESF***

Calls started on 25th October 2016, and so far there have been 22 ESF calls for a total of £53,439,000 (none for the North West yet). Deadlines are between six and ten weeks. Most of these projects are running until April/July 2020.

The expected Liverpool calls (about £17m for unemployed) could be very soon.

### ***Calls - ERDF***

A considerable number of calls are expected this week. These will be the first new ERDF calls since the pause last July. There should also be a few more calls in January, then probably not much 'till perhaps early summer.

The December calls will include ones for the North West. Manchester is expecting to have two, for Science Commercialisation and for Start-up Support (similar to a call in 2015, as the selected applicant was unable to continue the bid). Further calls being worked up for the future should cover Low Carbon, including energy efficiency in public buildings (for example small scale installations in community centres).

### ***Calls - EAFRD***

There will be a variety of calls for rural development, likely early January 2017 (perhaps 9th?). These will be on the national themes of Tourism, Business Development and Food Processing. Cheshire and Warrington is expected to issue calls for perhaps around 450k for each of the three headings (grants from about 40k to 180k), Manchester a similar amount, but just for the tourism head. Liverpool perhaps a bit less, and likely under business development. There wasn't a good takeup in the previous round, so there will be more support to encourage good bids in the coming one.

### **Community Grants Liverpool**

WEA is running this £1m project. The deadline for the second round is Monday 19th December (applications from Halton encouraged, as less than expected were in the first round).

### **DCLG Programme Bulletin**

The November version is available. It reports on the four Financial Instruments (loan funds) now finally approved. This includes the £60m to Manchester for loans for Urban Development, and for Low Carbon projects, and the £140m to the Northern Powerhouse Fund for loans to enterprises (covers all of the North apart from the North East, which has its own fund). It also reports on the ESF Skills Show, as well as updates on calls, and guidance documents.

Email [esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:esif@communities.gsi.gov.uk) and subscribe direct for your own copy.

### **ESIF Meeting**

Next Cumbria ESIF is on 20th December, Lancashire LEN is on 11th January.

Following the Greater Manchester ESIF meeting of 11th November, the 13th January meeting has been cancelled, and the next one will be on 17th March.

Following the Liverpool City Region meeting of 27th September, the 15th December meeting has been cancelled, and the next one will be on 19th January.

### **Managing Authorities finally approved**

DCLG (for ERDF) and DWP (for ESF) have at last been designated by the European Commission. This is good news - they are now officially the MAs, and can claim expenditure.

### **Network for Europe**

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**European Union**

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and Investment Funds