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<b>Meeting &amp; Date:</b>	Joint Strategic Economic Committee Meeting – 28 June 2017		
<b>Subject:</b>	European Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020		
<b>Attachments:</b>	None		
<b>Author:</b>	Julian Head	<b>Total no of sheets:</b>	5

<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### Summary & Recommendation:

#### Programme Update

##### Highlights

1. Full applications to the three ERDF low carbon calls are due by 30 June 2017. The Managing Authority will appraise the proposals over the summer with contracting expected to begin shortly after the next ESIF sub-committee meeting due on 13 September 2017.
2. The first Rural Assessment Sub-Group will meet on 26 June 2017 to consider the strategic fit of two applications to the RDPE Growth Programme.
3. Subject to government ratification, two calls for proposals under the ERDF programme will be published by the Managing Authority towards the end of June 2017. There will be one call for SME Workspace and another for a Strategic and Inward Investment Service across the LEP area.

##### ESIF Sub-Committee

4. Two vacancies exist for Higher Education and Equalities representatives.

##### ERDF Technical Assistance project

5. The project is now fully operational with activities including support to set up an ERDF Delivery Group that will track service delivery and operational issues related to Growth Hub.
6. The project is also supporting the ESIF Annual Event (in conjunction with the wider SWLEP annual event), running call information sessions for aforementioned ERDF calls, and actively supporting the promotion of other ERDF programmes, such as co-producing the 2 Seas programme workshop with Swindon Borough Council.

## Programme performance

### European Social Fund (ESF)

7. Almost 75% of the ESF allocation has been contracted to providers to support people and businesses, through workforce skills, employability training and for social inclusion support. Both Local Authorities are actively working with the SWLEP and directly with providers to ensure that targeted groups and particular places receive services.
8. Co-funding organisations and providers are meeting quarterly with the SWLEP, including Building Better Opportunities which had its first quarterly meeting in mid-May 2017.
9. Also in May, the SWLEP considered project change requests from the Skills Funding Agency and its providers to align delivery closer to demand. Whilst most of the requests were agreed, some conceptual issues remain for the Serco Skills for Workforce project which is struggling to target SMEs with meaningful skills provision that supports business growth.
10. Local authority officers began work in June to develop ESF programme calls later this year.

*ESF Programme summary (full project summary appears at end of paper)*

<b>ESF – Committed funds</b>		Allocation	Contracted amount	% of allocation contracted	Remaining allocation <sup>1</sup>
<b>Priority 1</b>	Inclusive Labour Markets	£9.07m	£7.75m	85%	£1.32m
<b>Priority 2</b>	Skills for Growth	£7.85m	£4.89m	62%	£2.96m
<b>Total</b>		<b>£16.92</b>	<b>£12.64m</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>£4.28m</b>

### European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

11. The ERDF Delivery Group will bring the six Growth Hub related ERDF projects into a forum to plan, develop and implement collaborative effort, cooperation between providers, co-branding of offers, targeting and to provide closer evaluation of performance of EU-funded projects supporting SMEs. In due course the relevant ESF skills projects will be invited join this group, so that the group becomes a mainstay that underpins Growth Hub delivery into the future.
12. Development work on future calls for Research Infrastructure and Digital Industries is being supported by the Technical Assistance project in conjunction with Local authority partners and SWLEP Secretariat.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to future £:€ exchange rate and change request by Skills Funding Agency.

*ERDF programme summary (full project summary appears at end of paper)*

<b>ERDF – Committed funds</b>		Allocation	Committed to contracts	% of allocation contracted	Remaining allocation <sup>2</sup>
<b>Priority 1</b>	Research & development	£6.72m	£4m	59%	£2.72m
<b>Priority 3</b>	SME Competitiveness	£4.78m	£2.21m	71%	£2.57m
<b>Priority 4</b>	Low Carbon	£5.43m	£5m	92%	£0.43m
<b>Total</b>		<b>£16.95m</b>	<b>£11.21m</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>£5.72m</b>

### **RDPE Growth Programme (EAFRD)**

13. Following the launch of RDPE Growth Programme, the SWLEP has set-up a Rural Assessment Sub-Group of the ESIF sub-Committee to provide regular advice to the RPA on the strategic fit of proposals.
14. Applications to the Programme to date have been few – with only three received to date. Reportedly this is typical of the national picture and not particular to the SWLEP. However, SWLEP officers are working on a new publicity drive to ensure that opportunities are not missed by local businesses.
15. Joint work with the LEADER programmes in the area to help all potential applicants find the right funding support has led to a positive uplift in LEADER applications, and it is believed that as LEADER becomes fully committed, others will turn to RDPE Growth Programme. The SWLEP must also be prepared to return to government to discuss alternative methods of funding.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to future £:€ exchange rate

**Full information on current funded and contracted ESIF projects**

Full ERDF implementation		Provider	ERDF Commitment	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>ERDF Priority 1 - Promoting Research and Innovation</b>							
1	<b>Porton Science Incubator -</b>	Wiltshire Council	£3,000,000	01-Feb	December		
2	<b>Innovate 2 Succeed</b>	EEN/ BusinessWest	£500,000	01- June			01-Jun
3	<b>Health &amp; Life science Hub</b>	Wiltshire Council/ AHSNs	£500,000	21-Nov			November
<b>ERDF Priority 3 - Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs</b>							
4	<b>SME Growth</b>	Wiltshire Council/ Swindon Borough	£1,200,000	17 -Nov			November
5	<b>Export for Growth</b>	DIT (UKTI) / BusinessWest	£599,883	01-Aug			01-Aug
6	<b>Manufacturing Programme (LMAP)</b>	SWMAS	£414,665	01-Apr			30-Jun
<b>ERDF Priority 4 - Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors</b>							
7	<b>Energy efficiency for businesses</b>	<i>Confidential information</i>	£500,000		Calls have closed and projects are likely to begin in late summer 2017 and continue for 1 - 3 years – potentially into 2020		
8	<b>Enabling Renewables Markets</b>	<i>Confidential information</i>	£2.250,000				
9	<b>Low Carbon built environment</b>	<i>Confidential information</i>	£2.250,000				
Full ESF implementation		CFO / Provider	ESF	2016	2017	2018	2019

			<b>Commitment</b>				
<b>ESF Priority 1.1 - Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people</b>							
1	<b>Links to Work</b>	DWP / Working Links	£3,000,000	Start 09 Jan 2017			Sept 2019
2	<b>Older50s support</b>	SFA / LearnDirect	£950,000	Start due November		31 July	
<b>ESF Priority 1.2 - Labour market integration of young people</b>							
3	<b>Your Time</b> <i>NEET young people skills coaching</i>	SFA / LearnDirect	£999,389	Start 01-Apr		31 July	
4	<b>Raising Aspiration (NEET &amp; IAG)</b>	SFA / CSW	£800,000	November		31 July	
<b>ESF Priority 1.4 - Active inclusion &amp; participation</b>							
5	<b>Building Bridges – promoting Social inclusion</b>	Big Lottery / Community First	£2,000,000	Start 01-July			July 2019
<b>ESF Priority 2.1 - Lifelong learning for all age groups</b>							
6	<b>Skills support for the Workforce</b>	SFA / Serco	£4,445,229	November		31 July	
7	<b>Raising Aspiration (EET &amp; Employment)</b>	SFA / CSW	£444,444	November		31 July	

- Projects 4 and 7 are the same project – but joining two investment priorities into a single 'hybrid' project
- SFA contracts are to be extended to July 2018 subject to agreement of projects