



Summary of HITC Meeting - 2nd June 2017

Points To Note:

SDRP

- Phyllis raised issues with the **LFASS scheme** payments being reduced to 80% due to the impact this will have on Orkney.

LEADER

- Vicky Dunlop updated the Committee on three new working groups with representation from Accountable Bodies (ABs), Local Actions Groups (LAGs), and Scottish Government. These groups will work together to aid the positive and successful delivery of the LEADER programme. Committee members raised the issue of a lack of set timescales for work being taken forward. The LARCS Working Group will identify and prioritise key issues and will set timescales for resolution and this will be shared with the LAGs.
- VD requested that if any group feels that guidance is required to provide details to SG regarding the areas where this would be beneficial so that this can be actioned.

ESF/ERDF

- Group welcomed the additional paper on H&I specific activity. MA confirmed that a more informed position regarding indicators and N+3 will be available at next meeting due to the number of claims due in. HITC requested an update on actual activity being carried out in the area, particularly within challenge funds.
- Lead Partner structure has resulted in increase in demands on staff time due to support they need to give to delivery agents. Lorna confirmed management fees not an eligible cost. Only solution would be to look at increasing management costs if require more staff. However MA recognises the demands on lead partners.
- Brexit: Group would welcome feedback on any on-going discussions regarding Brexit
- Risk Register: Risk to be added to register regarding commitment and absorption of funds in H&I. Group asked for a risk to be added for LARCS and to refer to the other programmes. As this is the risk register for the ESF/ERDF programmes we agreed instead to ask EARDF for a copy of their risk register to be brought to the Committee meetings.

JPMC Papers

Content with all papers going forward to JPMC

- Review Paper: the HITC welcomed the proposed changes.
 - Linda Stewart recommended the MA considers if a change from 15% to 40% would be a potential solution for ESF operations as could negate the requirement for part time staff
 - ERDF p.1 – a lot of work underway between industry and academia. Ensure fully consider all options

- ESF P.3 – look at demand and ensure balance maintained.
- Look at practicalities of implementing changes after JPMC and advise LPs on options.
- Consideration could be given to LAs to extend their Poverty and Social Inclusion SIs if need can be demonstrated.

The Managing Authority will report back on the work coming out of the review paper at the next HITC meeting. This will include an update on the on-going discussions with mental health, digital, employability colleagues and will include an update on who will take forward the H&I's culture and tourism intervention.

TA Paper: HITC agree that the main issue facing many organisations is finding out the various options available and would be reasonable use of TA. The group agreed that the provision of an information service should be extended beyond the third sector. Local authorities have also found the programmes complex and not easy to find out what funding opportunities there are. This will be considered and any work scoped out over next few months.

Actions for next HITC

- LEADER – Vicky to provide an update on work being taken forward by the various working groups
- Risk to be added to register regarding commitment and absorption of funds in H&I
- MA to expand HITC paper and to include summary of activity within each growth area and provide detail particularly around commitment within challenge funds
- See risk registers for SDRP and LEADER.
- Provide any update on post Brexit position
- Update on review and on how JPMC recommendations will be taken forward.
- Update on TA paper