



September 2009

€bulletin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme **September 2009 €bulletin >>>**

... prosperous, inclusive and self-sustaining communities, where the unique cultures, traditions and environments are enhanced ...

With the majority of Round 1-3 projects fully underway, the current focus is on trying to meet expenditure targets (N+2), processing progress report and claim forms and undertaking Round 4. There will be a significant amount of work involved to reach the N+2 targets with a shortfall of £3 million currently estimated. We urge all applicants to progress projects as timeously as possible and keep the IAB informed of any issues that may affect delivery.

Energy Efficiency in Social Housing

As mentioned in the May €bulletin, the scope of ERDF funding has been extended to include support for use of renewable, innovative and new technologies to improve energy efficiency in social housing. The overarching aim will be to make social housing as 'green' as possible, but

projects should also reduce the cost of heating these homes and is intended to target areas most affected by fuel poverty. The IAB has been consulting with Local Authorities to identify how best to target support under this measure and what the potential demand could be. Initially applications for Energy Efficiency should be coordinated by Local Authorities, but anyone who would like more information should contact Jamie Dunsmore at HIPP offices in Inverness.

Round 4 Applications

The processing of Round 4 applications is now well on its way. In some cases amendments are required to applications to ensure that they are technically correct and include only eligible expenditure. This is a final reminder that any corrections to applications must be made and the revised applications submitted by Friday, 2 October 2009 at the very latest (an earlier deadline may have been provided by IAB staff for some projects already processed). When any revised application is submitted a certified copy of the revised application should also be submitted to the IAB in hard copy. All projects must have their match funding package committed and match funding confirmation submitted to the IAB by Wednesday, 2 December 2009.

Fast Track Procedures

The IAB & Scottish Government have processed a number of Fast Track applications over the past months. Fast Track applications should only be applied for where projects are both strategic and time critical, or where they are directly responding to the impact of the economic downturn. Projects that have simply not managed to meet the timetable of the main rounds will not be considered. A copy of the Fast Track procedures is available in the Downloads section of the HIPP website, If you are considering submission of a project under these procedures, please contact the IAB as soon as possible.

Progress Reports and Claims (PRCs)

There has been a positive increase in the number of regular claims being received by the IAB. The PRC form is slightly different from previous programmes and will take a while for applicants to get used to. One area we would like to highlight is in relation to match funding. We would like to remind applicants that the value of match funding actually received into accounts during the period in question is recorded and not the amount of match funding required to balance the expenditure reported in that claim period. Match funding from the lead organisation is fixed at the

sum certified in the approved application form. Any other match funding that is not provided on a % basis also is fixed. Therefore, a reduction in the total certified eligible costs at the final claim stage will not reduce the amount of "fixed" match funding already certified, instead the value of ERDF or ESF grant required will reduce accordingly.

Partnership agreements

Any partnership project receiving support from Structural Funds should ensure that there is an appropriate Partnership Agreement in place, not least covering commitments made, legal obligations and the roles and responsibilities of each partner. The partnership agreement should also set out the project's communication and management structure. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place, and the IAB would encourage all partnership projects to have partners 'signed up' before the project begins.

Progress Reports & Article 60b Desk Checks

As advised in previous ebulletins, desk checks will be undertaken against 20% of the expenditure claimed within each PRC. The IAB requires transaction lists to be submitted electronically in a format that can be easily analysed, and preferably in EXCEL.

