



October 2009

€bulletin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme

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

Round 4

The technical and eligibility checks and appraisal issues summaries will be issued shortly to Advisory Group members in advance of their meetings in early November. IAB staff will be contacting applicants shortly after the Advisory Groups should any additional clarification or amendments be required at that stage. Please note that applicants need to keep the IAB informed on any outstanding match funding. Advisory Group recommendations will be considered at the Programme Monitoring Committee on 9 December.

20% Desk Checks

The IAB will be undertaking desk based checks on a minimum of 20% of claimed expenditure for each PRC in the near future. Applicants will be requested to provide the necessary documentation to evidence the chosen transactions and it is vital that this information is received timeously. The checks will not delay payment of the PRC concerned. This will be processed for payment by the IAB and the Scottish Government. However, failure to respond timeously and satisfactorily will mean that any subsequent claim(s) will be delayed. We are currently exploring the extent to which this material should be submitted electronically. Notifications will be issued shortly and we would be grateful for your assistance in making this new process operate as smoothly as possible. Fuller guidance will be issued soon but if you have any queries on these desk checks please contact Lorna Gregson-MacLeod on 01463 279509 in the meantime.

Progress Report and Claim Forms (PRCs)

The IAB would like to advise applicants that they need to submit a hard, certified copy of each PRC along with a transaction list (with the latter submitted electronically preferably using Excel format), once it is submitted online through the Eurosyst system. PRCs are not formally submitted until the hard copy material and transaction list has been provided.

N+2

Both the ERDF and ESF Programme N+2 targets are very challenging and currently we are estimating a shortfall for both Programmes. There are many projects that have not yet caught up with claims and this is providing difficulties in our ability to assess progress against targets. We would urge all applicants in this situation to catch up as soon as possible. We recognise also that some projects may have demand issues (especially schemes and some training programmes). Please ensure you use the project summary statement section of the form on Eurosyst to indicate how the project is progressing fully and if there are any demand or other issues affecting spend. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation. Failure to achieve N+2 will result in funds being lost to the programmes and the region.

Rural Priorities

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead recently announced new approvals under the Rural Priorities scheme (part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme). 640 projects were approved with a total value of £36.8 million, a significant investment for rural Scotland. Around 2,500 projects have been approved to date. More information can be found on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/09/16111603>



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