



January 2010

**€bulletin >>>**

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme **January 2010 €bulletin >>>**

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

Welcome to the first €bulletin of 2010 and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all applicants that submitted their PRCs on time and responded timeously to any requests for clarification in December to assist with N+2 targets.

### **Ministerial Announcements on Round 4 Approvals**

The First Minister announced the approvals made under Round 4 of the Highlands and Islands ERDF and ESF 2007-2013 Programmes on 11 January 2010. A wide range of initiatives have been approved with the renewable energy, heritage and environmental

sectors featuring under ERDF and further schemes to support the unemployed, provide mentoring services and develop innovative online training materials under the ESF Programme.

The full announcement is available via:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/01/11120012>

and the full list of approvals is on the HIPP website on

[http://www.hipp.org.uk/downloads\\_othe.asp?cat=78](http://www.hipp.org.uk/downloads_othe.asp?cat=78)

## Round 5 and Fast Track Applications

Round 5 will take place during 2010 and the dates are as follows:

Round 5 Application Timetable	
Deadline for Registrations	07 June 2010
Deadline for Stage 1 Submissions	18 June 2010
Deadline for Stage 2 Submissions	13 August 2010
Deadline for Stage 2 Corrections	To be advised
Advisory Groups	Late October 2010
Programme Monitoring Committee	08 December 2010
Ministerial Announcement	To be confirmed

A number of Fast Track applications for 2010 are beginning to come forward and the IAB is currently working with potential applicants to timetable the Fast Track applications so they can be grouped and processed as efficiently as possible. The next Programme Monitoring Committee will be on 02 June 2010 so any Fast Track applications to begin from June onwards should aim to have Stage 1 and 2 applications submitted by early April at the latest.

A reminder that Fast Tracking is available in exceptional cases only and to be considered eligible as a Fast Track application projects must be both strategic and time critical. The project should also be ready to proceed quickly. Anyone considering submitting a Fast Track application during 2010 should contact the IAB as soon as possible, even if the application will not be submitted until later in the year.

## Desk Checks

As advised in previous bulletins and the recent newsletter, desk checks on Progress Reports and Claim Forms are progressing. We thought it would help to highlight some of the issues that have resulted from the checks.

Time sheets - posts whose time is 100% claimed on a project do not require timesheets. For any staff that have been deemed eligible but who are not full-time on a project, timesheets are required and need to clearly identify the time spent and activities undertaken on ERDF/ESF and non-ERDF/ESF work. Descriptions need not be lengthy but should explain the work undertaken.

Apportionment - when requested under the desk checks for evidence to support any costs which were apportioned (and agreed at the time of application), this must be sufficient to allow the IAB to follow through the rationale and justification.

Moveable items - moveable infrastructure is only eligible under ERDF capital projects for research and development or community economic development facilities. Checks have identified some ineligible items e.g. chairs and cleaning equipment under ESF. Please note that equipment that is crucial for project delivery can be depreciated.

Marketing materials - we have identified some items that have been purchased to promote a project and display the project logo but not the required ERDF or ESF logo. Any item being claimed for marketing should meet the appropriate guidelines which are available on the HIPP website ([http://www.hipp.org.uk/downloads\\_addi.asp?cat=73](http://www.hipp.org.uk/downloads_addi.asp?cat=73) under Additional Guidance).

Consultancy Fees - whilst consultancy fees are eligible for some activities, they are not eligible for the preparation of Progress Report and Claim forms, including for the collation of information and review work.

Defrayment of Expenditure - the IAB is still identifying expenditure that has been included

within a claim period but has not been fully defrayed before including them in the Progress Report and Claim form.

The IAB aims to provide workshops during 2010 which will include further information on the results of checks.

## Rural Priorities Funding

Rural Secretary Richard Lochhead announced £96.6 million of funding for rural businesses and communities across Scotland through the Rural Priorities scheme within the Scottish Rural Development Programme. Many of these are within the Highlands and Islands area and more details can be found through the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/01/07100449>

