



February 2010

€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 ...

Welcome to the February €bulletin.

Strategic Realignment

At its December meeting, the Monitoring Committee agreed that a re-focussing of activities, under ERDF in particular, might help in increasing the rate of implementation and ultimately expenditure.

The Committee has asked for a comprehensive review for its next meeting in June and to facilitate this a series of meetings are currently underway involving The Scottish Government, the Intermediate Administration Body and key stakeholders.

Over £65m of Structural Funds remain to be allocated across both funds. It is fairly

clear that availability of co-finance will result in a number of challenges. Notwithstanding the continued emphasis on the Challenge Round more focus will go on supporting, where possible, fewer but larger strategic projects in the areas of ICT, tourism infrastructure, and a limited number of key transport and renewables investments. Under ESF the major changes are likely to be limited to financial adjustments.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be discussed with Commission colleagues in advance of the Committee meeting in order that changes can be implemented as quickly as possible following June's PMC.

Further details will be found in due course on the website.

Desk Checks

IAB staff are continuing to work through the desk checks and would like to thank applicants for responding to requests and queries. The areas that continue to raise issues include:

Defrayal of Expenditure - we are still coming across items that were not fully defrayed in the quarter of the progress report and claim form. Please ensure that payments have left the bank account prior to inclusion.

Timesheets - inaccuracies in timesheets have been identified. Timesheets should account for 100% of the member of staff's time and show clearly the actual time worked on the project concerned. We urge applicants that have apportioned staff time agreed ensure that project officers check that timesheets have been accurately completed.

Hourly Rates - where staff are apportioned and hourly rates have to be used please ensure the calculations are based on the salary at the time of the claim period and the calculations are not rounded.

Employers Contributions - please note that evidence of defrayal of employer's contributions for national insurance and superannuation is required for desk checks.



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