



November 2011

€bull€tin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership
Programme **November €bull€tin >>>**

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

**Welcome to the November €bull€tin with an update on Round 7
and N+2.**

Future ERDF Allocations

The Round 6 recommendations will allocate most of the remaining ERDF funding;
and with Phase 2 SDB approval for HIE anticipated early in 2012, the full
Programme is now effectively committed. Whilst some thought needs to be given to

project under spend or withdrawal, it is not envisaged that there will be sufficient funds available in the future to make an open challenge Round viable. In recognition of this, it is intended to create a 'reserve' list of ERDF projects that can be drawn on should additional ERDF funding become available during the remainder of the Programme.

Proposals should be submitted in line with Fast Tracking procedures. However, whilst Stage 1 applications will be considered, projects will not be invited to submit Stage 2 applications until sufficient ERDF funds are identified as being available. Any project coming forward would be subject to the usual technical assessments and Advisory Group consideration.

ESF Round 7

We are now close to concluding ESF Round 7, which has seen almost £10m of ESF funds requested. Projects cover a range of activity, but with a clear focus on Priority 1, supporting people into employment, and on building capacity in social enterprises and small businesses within the region through Priority 2. The value of ESF that is available will raise the bar still further for Round 7 projects, as limited funds mean that this will undoubtedly be our most competitive Round of the Programme. Subject to decisions to be made in December, the ESF Programme is expected to be fully committed and there are not expected to be any further Rounds under either Programme. There is not currently a 'reserve list' proposed for ESF but, as always, the IAB is happy to discuss any ideas or proposals you may have. Any further developments under ESF, including the Round 7 awards, will be announced through future €bull€tins, so watch this space!

N+2 Update

We now have sufficient ERDF claims to meet the target provided the associated desk checks are satisfactory and can be cleared. On ESF, we are edging ever closer to the target but do require applicants who were given until the 18th

November to submit claims to do so and for desk checks to complete satisfactorily.

We are grateful to all partners for all their efforts to submit claims on time and respond quickly to queries. The IAB will continue to be in close contact with those that have claims or checks still outstanding and we would be grateful for your continued support.

