



December 2011

€bull€tin >>>

> regeneration > sustainability > innovation > commitment



Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme

December €bull€tin >>>

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

Welcome to the December 2011 edition of our €bull€tin

This has been a very challenging year, which has culminated in the full commitment of both Programmes and meeting the N+2 targets. We would like to wish everybody involved in the Programmes a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2012.

N+2 Update

We are delighted to confirm that the N+2 ERDF and ESF targets were met. We are very grateful to applicants for all the hard work involved in submitting claims on time, providing extended claims and responding to desk check queries.

Round 6 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Recent approvals under Round 6 have seen the final awards for ERDF Challenge applications under this Programme. This brings the total of ERDF grant awarded in the 2007-13 H&I ERDF Programme to £100M, supporting projects worth almost £400M across the region.

Tourism and the region's natural heritage feature again in this year's approvals; with the 'Enjoy Wild Orkney' project, led by RSPB, developing and promoting opportunities to experience wildlife across the Orkney Islands. There continues to be a strong focus on renewable energy, with further support for capital investment in infrastructure servicing the marine renewable sector around the Pentland Firth and investment in development of hydrogen technology in the Western Isles. Energy efficiency also features in the Highlands, with support for efficiency measures in Social Housing and funding to enable piloting of a Hybrid Ferry for the west coast.

Now that the Programme is committed the challenge will be to ensure delivery of the projects and to realise the wide ranging benefits to the region. The recent Round 6 ERDF approvals have been announced and the full story can be read [here](#)

<http://scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/20101014>

and the full list of all projects supported to date can be downloaded from the HIPP website [here](#)

<http://www.hipp.org.uk/projectapprovals-erdf.asp>

Strategic Delivery Bodies (SDBs)

The UHI SDB applications for Phase 2 have also been approved and this will see further support for the region's new University. ERDF support will be focused on development of the new Beechwood Campus, whilst ESF funding will work alongside the Investing in Recovery project, continuing development of blended learning and building on the delivery of courses, developed with support from the UHI Phase 1 SDB project. The Phase 2 approvals through ESF and ERDF represent a further £6.8M investment in UHI, further enhancing the quality of education and facilities in the Highlands & Islands.

Programme Administration

The Scottish Government has indicated its intention to bring the activities of HIPP "in- house" in order to ensure the continued smooth operation of

Structural Funds across Scotland. This change will be effective from 1 April 2012. The delivery of service to Partners will not be affected and the presence of Structural Funds in the area will be maintained.



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