



July 2009

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



## Welcome to the July €bulletin

### Round 4 Stage 2

Fifty-two Stage 1 Applications were approved for Stage 2 following the deadline on 26 June 2009. HIPP staff are happy to provide assistance and guidance with Stage 2 applications so please contact us. Stage 2 Applications should be submitted no later than 17:00 hours on Friday, 21 August 2009. Certified hard copies of the Stage 2 application and annexes should also be submitted by this date. However, if there are any unforeseen circumstances, the Scottish Government has permitted applicants a further **3 working days only** for receipt of the hard copy material.

### ESF Multi-Annual Applications

A number of applicants have asked for clarification on match funding requirements for multi-annual ESF projects. The match funding for Year 1 (i.e. the first 12 months) should be confirmed and in place by the match funding deadline for Round 4 (2 December 2009). Confirmation of subsequent years' match funding can be supplied on an annual basis thereafter. Please note that should ESF funding be approved, continued support would be conditional on the future years' match funding being made available.

## Fast Track Approvals

Four projects applied under the fast track procedures and were recommended for funding by the Programme Monitoring Committee on 03 June 2009. These projects have now been given Ministerial approval:

### *North Highland College: North of Scotland Engineering and Energy Centre*

This project will provide over 3000 m<sup>2</sup> high class training facilities for both the immediate needs for skills training for the decommissioning of the Dounreay site as well as those for the regeneration of the area. It aims to become the "hub" to support vocational skills for science and engineering developments across the North.

### *The Scottish Government - Support for Redundant MAs in Highlands and Islands*

The project aims to support 75 Modern Apprentices in the region who are being made redundant by their employer. It will provide the MA with a service that will seek to secure an apprenticeship with an alternative employer or offer alternative training.

### *The Scottish Government - Training for Work in Highlands and Islands 2009/2010*

The project will increase the support available through Training for Work in response to the anticipated increase in the numbers unemployed over the coming months.

### *The Scottish Government - Responding to Redundancy (H&I)*

The project will provide support to those facing redundancy through increased numbers of career advisers who will provide intensive career planning interviews, workshops, online tools and a help centre.

## N+2 Update

The submission of claims continues at a rate slower than we would like and we encourage all applicants to submit on time. The financial targets set are extremely challenging and the claim throughput is not sufficient to meet these targets. In addition, it seems that a number of applicants have delayed starting capital projects but have not informed the IAB. One project in itself may not have a notable impact on meeting the targets but the combination of late migrations, delayed claims and late changes to project timescales all have an unwelcome cumulative impact. We urge applicants to keep to initial timescales and, if not possible, to inform us immediately so that we can discuss what options are available to avoid further delays. Funding lost to the Programme is funding lost to communities in the Highlands and Islands.



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