



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government



Chairs
Local ESI Funds Committees

16th April 2018

Colleagues,

We reach a key phase in the delivery of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds this year. I am writing to update you on the arrangements for delivering the current programme and the milestones we are all working to deliver this year.

Following agreement reached between the UK Government and the European Union (EU) on the draft Withdrawal Agreement, we know that the UK will continue to participate in all EU programmes in the 2014-20 funding period, subject to overall agreement being reached between the UK and EU on our exit from the EU. This means that ESI Funds programmes will continue to deliver and invest in your areas until they close.

The European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Fund programmes will continue to be able to award funding to successful projects across England to the full value of programme allocations. Similarly, UK organisations can continue to apply for funding and work with counterparts in other countries for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and access other important EU programmes, such as research funding from Horizon 2020. This ensures that communities and businesses will continue to benefit from investment from these programmes over the coming years, supporting local economic plans and jobs and growth in all parts of the country.

The delivery of EU programmes will continue to be run in line with EU regulations until they close. Managing Authorities will maintain their core current roles and will continue to develop and adjust systems across all EU Funds during the 2014-20 programme period, to maximise efficient and effective delivery and programme outcomes.

Our focus in the programmes is to meet the stretching performance targets the UK agreed with the EU at the start of the programme. For 2018 this means achieving a range of spend and output targets (N+3 and the Performance Framework) that will preserve our full allocations and entitlement to performance-based payments in 2019, maximising the value of available funding.


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To do this, we need to stretch our performance levels, investing and claiming at pace through local Managing Authority teams. Slippage in delivery and claims that projects are contracted to submit will put at risk funding and growth in your areas. It is therefore vital that we work together to deliver to the highest levels. I am grateful for your support in working with local Managing Authority teams and projects in your areas to support this objective, to help maintain pace in delivery and claims over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Sweeney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Sweeney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julia Sweeney
Director, European Programmes and Local Growth