

SCOTLAND/IRELAND EUROPEAN INTERREG PROGRAMME 2007-13

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the progress of the Scotland/Ireland Cross Border Interreg programme (2007-2013) and opportunities for project development.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That CPP members note the potential of the programme to support projects which could contribute to strategic objectives, particularly in relation to service delivery.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The European Commission is currently preparing European funding programmes for the 2007-13 period. Included in those programmes are a series of INTERREG programmes, which fund interregional co-operation projects between European countries and regions.
- 3.2** A Scotland/Ireland cross border INTERREG Programme has been developed for the first time, and consultation responses are currently under consideration. The eligible areas are shown on the attached map. It is anticipated that the programme will invite applications for the first round of funding in autumn 2007. This will be followed by a series of application deadlines until 2014, or until the funding is committed. There is a small amount of funding available for preparatory projects to allow potential partners to meet and to discuss the merits of progressing a project idea.
- 3.3** The draft Cross Border INTERREG programme has 2 priorities:
- 1 - Co-operation for a prosperous cross border region
 - 2 - Co-operation for a sustainable cross border region
- 3.4** Priority 1 contains scope for project development based on enterprise and tourism, both focussing on the development of employment, business and the improved performance of the tourism industry.
- 3.4** Priority 2 contains scope for project development in the exchange of expertise, information and best practice between public bodies and other stakeholders. It will specifically support strategic

collaborative approaches that will address service delivery and the promotion of sustainable communities. This Priority will also support infrastructure projects relating to telecommunications, transport, energy, waste, utilities and the environment.

- 3.5** There are a number of potential projects under development, the most advanced of which is a sailing project, involving a range of partners including HIE/AI and Argyll and Bute Council. This will support the expansion of sailing tourism throughout the coastal areas of Argyll and Bute, Ayrshire and Ireland.
- 3.6** There is also a strong desire to see the Campbeltown Ballycastle Ferry supported by the programme in some way.
- 3.7** In addition, Donegal County Council are very interested in developing projects related to service delivery on islands, a proposal which is still in the early stages.
- 3.8** Other partners may be aware of other project proposals which are under development.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The Cross Border Programme presents an opportunity to strengthen relationships with areas in Ireland, whilst taking advantage of a new funding stream. The Council's European Unit is available to offer advice and support for partners who would like to consider applying for funds (see contact details below).

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Policy:** The new programme will enable delivery of projects which contribute to the overall CPP aims and objectives.
- Financial:** Projects will be eligible for grant assistance of up to 75%. The total programme funding available is £170 million.
- Personnel:** Existing officer time will be allocated to project development
- Equal Opportunity:** The programme has equal opportunities as a horizontal theme.

For further information contact: Mary Louise Macquarrie/Jane Fowler

Telephone 01700 502252

Map of Cross-Border Programmes between the UK & Ireland

This map illustrates the eligible areas for both the **Ireland/Northern Ireland/Scotland** Programme from 2007 to 2013 and the **Ireland-Wales** Programme.

