
**UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CPP PACKAGE FOR EUROPEAN
FUNDING**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report updates the Management Committee on the progress made to date regarding the preparation of a package of Community Planning projects for European Structural Funds assistance.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee endorses the work of the steering group thus far, and more specifically;
- 2.2** That the Management Committee agrees that the integrated theme for the bid should be drawn from the Vibrant Communities Vision from the CPP Action Plan and in particular the topic on creating a Robust and Dynamic Economy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** As reported previously, Community Planning Partnerships are being asked to prepare an integrated package of projects for ERDF (Priority 3) and ESF (Priority 1) funding. The package will be co-ordinated by the local authority.
- 3.2** A seminar was held for Argyll and Bute CPP partners on Friday 9 November 2007 at which 26 partner representatives attended. From this event the membership of a steering group was approved and tasked with developing the bid.
- 3.3** The first meeting of this group took place on 28 November 2007 at the Funding Hub where it was agreed that the steering group develop the bid over a series of meetings based on the timetable noted below:
- 11 January 2008
 - 25 January 2008
 - 8 February 2008
 - 22 February 2008
- 3.4** The Scottish Government has recently produced the draft guidance for the CPP European funding proposals and the steering group are working towards developing the bid on the basis of the terms outlined in the guidance.
- 3.4** It is worth noting that the guidance states that the estimated allocation of money for the CPP packages to bid for is between £6m - £7.5m which will be shared on a competitive and qualitative basis across the 5 CPPs in the Highlands and Islands,

plus part of Moray and Arran and the Cumbraes. However, the European Manager has indicated that the figure may have been increased to £11m, the European Manager will seek clarity on this matter and the steering group will develop the bid appropriately.

- 3.5** The European Manager - along with colleagues in the Highlands and Islands European Partnership - will press the Scottish Government for a more realistic timescale in which to prepare the bid as currently the guidance notes that the bid outline line has to be submitted to the Intermediary Advisory Board by February or March which is unrealistic given the lack of guidance there has been on developing the plans and the previous timescales mooted.
- 3.6** In line with the information noted in the guidance and after lengthy discussions the steering group recommends that the integrated theme for the bid should be drawn from the Vibrant Communities Vision from the CPP Action Plan and in particular the topic on creating a Robust and Dynamic Economy. This is to maximise on the potential opportunities there could be to match fund projects with monies from the Fairer Scotland Fund.
- 3.7** Having prioritised the integrated theme for the bid the steering group is now in the process of undertaking a project scoping exercise and will continue its work on the following basis:
- Identification of programmed partner projects
 - Identify alternative source of funding
 - Identify additionality and complementarity of projects
 - Develop bid strategy and action plan.
- 3.8** The steering group will undertake this work and will seek approval of the package from the Management Committee prior to submitting the outline plan to the Intermediary Advisory Board by March / April 2008.

CONCLUSION

- 4.1** This report updates the Management Committee on the progress made to date regarding the preparation of the package of Community Planning projects for European Structural Funds assistance. The paper also seeks the approval of the Management Committee to develop the package of projects based around theme of creating a Robust and Dynamic Economy in Argyll and Bute. The steering group will seek the approval of the bid by Management Committee prior to submitting the outline plan to the Intermediary Advisory Board by March / April 2008.

For further information contact: Shona Strachan or Jane Fowler

Telephone 01700 502252