



## Lowlands and Uplands Scotland ERDF and ESF Programmes 2007-2013 Programme Monitoring Committee

### ESF Shadow Round Report from the Scottish Government

#### Purpose

1. To advise the Committee on the outcomes of the ESF Priority 1 Shadow Round.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Scottish Government held a Shadow Round for ESF Priority 1 (Progressing Into Employment) in January 2007 in both the Highlands and Islands and Lowlands and Uplands Programme areas. The purpose of the round was to allow project activity to take place during 2007 in the absence of approved Structural Funds Programmes and to ensure that vulnerable target groups and projects were not disadvantaged. A total of up to £10,000,000 was made available to the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland Programme area should it be required.
- 2.2 **63** applications were received on **16 February 2007** for consideration under Priority 1 of the ESF Lowlands and Uplands Scotland Programme. The requested ESF bids totalled **£11,165,007**.

#### 3. Project Appraisal

- 3.1 The Advisory Group met in March 2007. Technical checks had been carried out by the IAB following new Scottish Government guidance. Advisory Group members, Scottish Government policy contacts and IAB staff scored all applications according to the Scottish Government's new scoring system. Each application was then discussed by the Advisory Group and agreement on final scores was achieved by consensus.
- 3.2 Appraisal details for each application are included in the attached summary sheets. This resulted in the following recommendations:

Priority	No. of Approval Recs.	ESF Recs. (£)
1	49	8,744,253

## 4. Appraisal Scoring System

- 4.1 ESF Shadow Round applications were scored by members of the Virtual Advisory Group, who entered their scores 0-5 (low to high) into standard score sheets which were emailed to the IAB. Scottish Executive policy staff scored sections 4.1, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.10 of the applications 0-5 (low to high) and these scores were also emailed to the IAB, who scored sections 4.7, 4.10 and 4.11 again on a scale of 0-5 (low to high).

Virtual Advisory Group, Scottish Executive Policy and IAB scores were collated and input into the Advisory Group scoring spreadsheets to calculate the score for each project. Multipliers were applied to each section of the scoring sheet as follows:-

Section	Title	Weighting	Multiplier
4.1	Strategic Fit	High	1.5
4.2	Evidence of Demand	High	1.5
4.3	Project Structure & Management	Medium	1.0
4.4	Participant Support & Aftercare	Medium	1.0
4.5	Innovation	Low	0.5
4.6	Justification	Medium	1.0
4.7	Past Performance	Medium	1.0
4.8	Output, Results, Impacts, Monitoring and Evaluation	High	1.5
4.9	Added Value	High	1.5
4.10	Complementarity	Low	0.5
4.11	Horizontal Themes	High	1.5

The Advisory Group agreed a final score and ranked the projects based on consensus.

## 5. Reporting Format

- 5.1 Members of the Committee are also invited to consider the suitability of the reporting format used for Shadow Round projects. The reporting arrangements for the forthcoming round will be broadly similar and whilst the Advisory Group will be required to appraise projects based on the full application form it is not considered appropriate to provide such detail to Monitoring Committee members. The Summary Sheets should provide sufficient information to allow Committee members to consider the merits of individual applications and the recommendations of the Advisory Groups. Moreover, the covering report normally identifies any specific issues or concerns requiring particular consideration by the Committee. Full forms would be available on request.

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is invited to:

- 6.1.1 note the contents of the report;

- 6.1.2 agree the appraisal process applied under the Shadow Round, ESF Priority 1; and

- 6.1.3** endorse the recommendations and approvals of the Shadow Round and accept these approvals as part of the first round of the ESF Priority 1 in the ESF Programme for 2007-13.