

## Summary of key points from Yorkshire and Humber European Officer's report.

### Suggested Principles Priorities and Ambitions for EU Funds 2014 – 2020 for the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions

1. Decision making should be in the hands of local decision makers
2. Funds should be deployed / contracted at city region level.
3. Operational programme geography likely to be a number of adjoining LEP areas.
  - All funding streams with an economic purpose should at the least be aligned and ideally conjoined – the Heseltine Review makes this suggestion as well, in combination with other national and local funds should deliver the LEP.
  - Funding should be deployed strategically against key priorities – in Leeds CR the Economic Development Plan should be the key driver for identifying this although the support to Cities should not be at the expense of others areas in the CRs
  - Funding focused on outcomes rather than outputs
  - Funding streams with an economic purpose should be deployed at the level of functional economic spaces
  - Both the CRs are eligible to receive funding from each of the key funds - ERDF, ESF and EAFRD (although EAFRD is only eligible in certain smaller areas). Whilst each CR has been developing a City Region Investment Fund this could also be used as a key vehicle to access funds to deliver the economic growth agenda.
4. Overarching priorities:
  - Growth (increased GVA),
  - Jobs (numbers and quality),
  - Physical and environmental regeneration.
  - Inclusion.
  - Reduced worklessness and poverty.
5. Priority Sectors - each CR will need to clearly articulate what its key priority sectors are based on its economic strategy. Suggestions would include ;
  - Advanced manufacturing;
  - Healthcare technologies;
  - Low carbon;

- Construction;
- Creative and digital.

Also, aviation; tourism; culture, leisure & sport; retail and logistics maybe considered – although traditionally sectors like leisure and sport , retail and tourism traditionally have not been key sectors supported through eg. ERDF. Recognition of the key role that professional and business services play in fostering growth in all sectors, as well as being a potential growth sector in itself also needs to be acknowledged.

6. Particular priorities for ESF - Promotion of greater inclusion, reduction of worklessness and reduction of poverty.
  - a. Continuing investment in skills development for unemployed people, particularly for vulnerable groups.
  - b. Workforce development support for SME's
  - c. Minimising numbers of young people who are NEET,
7. Preparing for and implementing changes to support the raising of the participation age in education.
  - a. Supporting vocational education outside schools.
  - b. Supporting schools engagement with and understanding of the labour market.
  - c. Supporting young people's transition at 18 to adult support and other services.
  - d. Pre-apprenticeship programme and a programme to help the young unemployed become more work ready

### **Principal work-streams for EU funds to support:**

Economic Growth Plans for the Leeds CR and Sheffield CR (currently under development) must frame the use of EU funds. Whilst Sheffield CR have already started to lobby Government with regard to Transition areas they have also started to articulate what their priorities would be fro the Sheffield CR to fund using EU funds.

Growth (increased GVA), jobs (numbers and quality) and physical and environmental regeneration are all important to the city region, and we must seek to deliver them all in combination, and to the benefit of the whole of the city region.

- Thematic focus. We believe that most of what we would want to do can be contained within the European Commission's eleven themes, provided that interpretation is sufficiently flexible and that the MA does not adopt an unreasonably risk averse approach.

As for the required minimum spend on four of them, we do not believe that such high level prescription is helpful, although we do not think that it will unduly constrain or distort delivery against our ambitions.

- Work stream focus. As a LEP we have identified a number of principal work streams, and insofar as they meet eligibility requirements, we would deploy EU funds to support these.
- Complementarity with City Deal plans and priorities:
- Where Enterprise Zone plans are in place ensure the maximum leverage of both.
- Knowledge Transfer – DoDs are in need to have a discussion with the city region’s universities to how best benefits can be shared of their often world class work to the benefit of the city region’s businesses and wider economy
- SME competitiveness which would include amongst others.
  - a range of programmes to support start-up
  - social enterprise support
  - export programmes
  - supply chain development
  - facilitating access to public sector procurement
- Marketing and inward investment programme for the city region (where eligible and not displacement).
- Skills- in line with City Deal Skills Plan, emphasise the importance of higher level skills, linked to business need and key sectors.
- Entrepreneurship – with low levels of aspiration in many of the CRs more deprived post-industrial communities, target pro-entrepreneurship actions in those communities.
- Inclusion, worklessness, poverty – with all the evidence, as well as through experience, shows that this is best tackled at a very local level. Suggest enhancing ATA type models to support the unemployed as well as more intensive programmes to help the young unemployed become more work ready, as well as continuing, deepening and broadening the many successful programmes already underway in different parts of the city region.
- Economic infrastructure – whilst in the current Y & H ERDF Programme this has been limited only to the Objective 1 area (ie South Yorkshire) lobby for this to be more flexibly available across both CR areas – making the area attractive to knowledge and advanced industries.

- Transport schemes that are essential to unlock growth or create jobs should be funded. Also schemes which connect excluded communities/ individuals to jobs.
- A programme of urban transport low carbon actions.
- Broadband connectivity – building on work undertaken in the current programme to make sure the use of new technologies eg. 4G, multi device options, are made accessible to all areas.
- Rural - ensuring that rural communities are fully connected to the urban economy.