

## **Update on European Funding for VS6 for 17th July 2019**

### **LCR ESF Community Grants**

The WEA launched ESF Community Grants for Liverpool City Region on 24th April, closing date 5th June, receiving over eighty bids, with about thirty likely to be approved. Announcements could be as early as late this week. Successful projects would likely attend an induction day at the beginning of September, and start from October (with initial payments in September).

A further round of applications is expected to open Wednesday 31st July. This might involve extra measures to encourage good quality bids from Halton.

[www.wea.org.uk/liverpool-city-region-webpage-esf-community-grants-2019-2021](http://www.wea.org.uk/liverpool-city-region-webpage-esf-community-grants-2019-2021)

### **ESF calls**

Several ESF calls for Liverpool have now closed, and we await the names of the winning organisations. These cover Graduate placements (£3.6m), supported employment (£2.5m) and skills brokerage (£5.5m).

A further call was announced on 28th May, with a closing deadline of 12th August

This is under Priority 2.2 and is £5,193 from Europe for three different kinds of activity. There is £1m for high level skills, £1.5m for entrepreneurial support (increasing the numbers of self employed people and their sustainability), and £2.5m for support for leadership and management (also highlights the lack of women in leadership and management roles).

Delivery across all three areas should note higher than nationally inactivity, LCR is committed to improve inclusion and narrow gaps for under-represented groups, LCR is committed to Social Value and proposals must evidence how this is supported.

[www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds](http://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds) OC22S19P1426

Further calls across England are being announced each week, and this is expected to continue until the end of 2019. ESF projects can spend until December 2023.

### **NEET young people ESF-YEI**

Liverpool has been running very successful projects for NEET Young people (under 30) funded by ESF-YEI with the strong involvement of VCSE organisations. An £81m call for further projects (mainly in the Midlands) was due in June, but has not yet happened. About £1m of this will be allocated to Liverpool.

### **BBO extensions**

ESF-Lottery funded SCVS-Vola (Digital Inclusion) and The Women's Organisation (Financial Inclusion) in the first half of the Programme. Both are coalition projects and total £4m. It is understood that both have negotiated extensions, with additional funding of around £2.7m for the second half of the Programme, but there does not seem to have been a formal announcement from the National Lottery Community Fund, although this was expected in June.

### **More ESF funding for young people**

As well as the £2.7m for Community Grants, ESFA had also allocated £2.25m from Europe for work with young people. This has now been announced, and was allocated to the Greenbank Project.

### **ESF Reserve Fund**

Calls will finish at the end of 2019. Remaining funds will then be put into a central Reserve Fund. This is expected to be about £255 million from Europe, or 8% of the programme. Recent agreements say that this will be split up into fortnightly calls across the first half of the year

(perhaps around £17m for each call). It will be open to LEP areas, cross LEP areas, and others, including the third sector to propose calls. It is intended that appraisals will be much faster (about 14-16 weeks), and so long as contracts are signed before the end of 2020, projects are guaranteed funding by the UK (whatever happens with Europe) and spend can continue until end December 2023.

Liverpool ESIF committee is intending to propose some calls for 2020.

### **ERDF calls**

There were a very large number of ERDF calls on 5th October last year, with only a few since. Finally, on 26th June, a hundred and thirty two calls were announced, for £619m from Europe. Any remaining monies will be transferred to a central Reserve Fund.

For Liverpool CR, there is £13.6m available from Europe, plus a share of two other calls (one covering the whole of the North West, one split between Liverpool and Cumbria. Also, Halton is not part of a Liverpool call (as it has more developed status), but is included within Cheshire and Warrington.

There will be a briefing session on the calls from the ERDF Managing Authority, MHCLG, in Preston on Friday 19th July. This is for anyone interested in any of the ERDF calls in the North West and also for Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire. This does not appear to be happening anywhere else in England. It is strongly recommended that any organisation interested reserves a place.  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-west-erdf-call-event-tickets-64365141872](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-west-erdf-call-event-tickets-64365141872)

ERDF applications typically need a minimum of £500k from Europe (sometimes smaller), and the deadline for all these bids is 30th September. Projects have to be appraised and have signed agreement by the end of 2020, and ERDF can continue to spend until the end of June 2023. As with ESF, this money is guaranteed by the UK, whatever happens with Europe.

Applications need to show they are working with the local growth hub.

Following the national Industrial Strategy announced in November 2017, LEP areas have been preparing their Local Industrial Strategies. Birmingham and Manchester have now launched theirs - Manchester has a variety of references to local people and working with VCSE (and fourteen references to Social Enterprise). Liverpool is working on its Local Industrial Strategy, likely to be completed next year.

### **Liverpool CR**

Updated 11/7/19 with 1a added to sub-priority (deleting para p9)

**£6.1m P1** Promoting Research and Innovation

**OC22R19P1033**

Minimum £500k from ERDF (ie min £833k per project?)

Deadline 30/9/19

Transition area only (Halton funded via C&W OC03R19P1037). Only fund 1 or 2 projects

#### *Local Need*

Liverpool Knowledge Quarter. Three areas of world-leadingness - Infection, Materials Chemistry, High Performance and Cognitive Computing, plus ambition for LCR to be national exemplar of place based and innovation driven growth and productivity. Emerging Local Industrial Strategy (published 2020). Deliver across five local authority areas. Link with One Front Door and local Growth Hub.

#### *Sub Priorities - note 1a added later*

1a Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure, promoting centres of competence

1b Promoting business investment in research and innovation by -

links and synergies with R&D Centres and HE. In particular tech transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service, networking etc

supporting tech and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation etc

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**Liverpool CR**

**£4.5m P3** Small and Medium Sized Enterprises  
Minimum £500k from ERDF (ie min £833k per project?)  
Transition area only (ie not Halton)

**OC22R19P1000**  
Deadline 30/9/19

*Local Need*

Local strategy is increase GVA, more and bigger businesses, more employment opportunities for local people through creation of jobs and assisting local residents into employment. Simplification, commercialisation and coherence. Seven priorities for the call.

Expect ratio between 3a and 3c/d to be 30:70.

*Sub Priorities*

3a Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular facilitating economic exploitation of new ideas and creation of new firms, including business incubators.

3c Supporting the creation and extension of advanced capacities for products/services/devpt.

3d Supporting capacity of SMEs to grow (regional, national, international), and innovation.

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**Liverpool CR**

**£3.0m P4** Supporting shift to a Low Carbon Economy  
Minimum £500k from ERDF

**OC22R19P0964**  
Deadline 30/9/19

*Local Need*

Two previous ERDF calls have delivered seven projects, including development of new low-carbon technologies products and processes, energy generation and efficiency, and walking and cycling routes. This call is to enhance and build on results to date and welcomes extensions to existing projects.

*Sub Priorities*

4f Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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**Cumbria and Liverpool CR (Transition only - no Halton)**

**£2.0m P3** Small and Medium Sized Enterprises  
Minimum £500k from ERDF (ie min £833k per project)  
Revenue only. Preference for a single project.

**OC50R19P0994**  
Deadline 30/9/19

*Local Need*

Call responds to recommendations from three reviews - greater awareness and takeup of equity finance, increased take up of external finance for SMEs to grow, untapped potential - women in enterprise.

*Sub Priorities*

3d Supporting capacity of SMEs to grow (regional, national, international), and innovation.

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**Cheshire and Warrington (with Halton from Liverpool City Region)**

**£4.5m P1** Promoting Research and Innovation  
Minimum £500k from ERDF (ie min £1m per project)

**OC03R19P1037**  
Deadline 30/9/19

*Local Need*

C&W three areas of strength - Manufacturing, Life Sciences, Energy & Clean Growth.

Need to tackle productivity. Seven suggested activities.

Halton (Liverpool More Developed) Sci-Tech Daresbury cluster of excellence. Only 1b for Halton - for innovation related mechanisms and support activities.

*Sub Priorities*

1a Enhancing research and innovation infrastructure, promoting centres of competence

1b Promoting business investment in research and innovation by -

links and synergies with R&D Centres and HE. In particular tech transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service, networking etc

supporting tech and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation etc

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**Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, G Manchester, Lancashire, Liverpool CR**  
**£7.96m P4** Supporting shift to a Low Carbon Economy **OC50R19P0967**  
Minimum £500k from ERDF Deadline 30/9/19

*Local Need*

Preference for a single project.

Applications invited covering the North West, are expected to be a consortium based approach to enable the range of research knowledge to be available to SMEs. Focus on SMEs to deliver low carbon innovation.

*Sub Priorities*

4f Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

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**ERDF Reserve Fund**

ERDF will also have a central Reserve Fund, but the details of how it will operate have not yet been agreed (further papers promised for September and December), and it is not clear how much money will be available.

**Future Programme**

For the proposed UK-Shared Prosperity Fund which could replace the £12billion we would normally have received from Europe for 2021-27, nothing is expected to be announced any time soon. We will have to wait until new Ministers are in place, and have settled into their new jobs. As well as UK-SPF appearing in the 2017 Conservative Party Manifesto, it has also been supported in the recent Labour Party document (Paternalism to Participation) and is referenced in a recent Heseltine paper (Empowering English Cities). There is also a recent paper from Locality (Communities in Charge). The concern is that VCSE will generally be excluded, in favour of Private/Public Sector, and large bids.

Meanwhile, across Europe the draft 2021-27 Budget and Regulations were published in May 2018, and partners are now working together to prepare their Operational Programmes - with some interesting roles for ESF, including on housing.

**Network for Europe**  
**17th July 2019**