



European Regional Development Funding - Bidding Round for East Midlands Objective 2 Areas – DEADLINE – 5 JANUARY 2007

The Government Office for the East Midlands has been working with Action Plan Partnerships across the region to try to secure the full commitment of European Objective 2 funds by the end of 2006 to maximise the potential to achieve full take up and spend. Funds under the Objective 2 programme need to be spent by 31 December 2008.

Although substantial progress has been made in committing funds, at 5 December 2006, £0.425m remains to be allocated to projects (£0.182m in priority 1, £0.198m in priority 2 and £0.46m in priority 3). This figure is expected to increase as existing projects underspend, fail to progress satisfactorily or are required to pay back grant as a result of irregular activity.

Expressions of Interest are invited from project sponsors who have projects which will start in 2007 and be completed by the end of 2008. The deadline for spend (31 December 2008) is critical because any expenditure after that date cannot attract ERDF funding. Project sponsors may apply for ERDF to support up to 50% of their eligible project costs. Projects will be expected to source (and evidence) their remaining match funding from public or private sector sources.

There are 3 priorities in the Objective 2 programme:

Priority 1 - Enterprise and Innovation

Measure	Objective 2 Programme Priorities and Measures
1.1	Supporting ICT , Technology Development and Business Innovation (ERDF)
1.2	Financial Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Social Economy (ERDF)
1.3	Business Development for SMEs and Community Enterprises (ERDF)
1.4	Business Infrastructure for SMEs and Community Enterprises (ERDF)

Priority 2 – Climate for Investment

Measure	Objective 2 Programme Priorities and Measures
2.1	Strategic Development Opportunities
2.2	Economic Infrastructure
2.3	Investing in Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Industries

Priority 3: Sustainable Communities

Measure	Objective 2 Programme Priorities and Measures
3.1.1	Community Capacity Building
3.1.2	Creating Sustainable Communities
3.2.1	Sustainable Rural Communities



Expression of Interest forms will need to be completed and returned to GOEM by 5 January 2007. Forms should be addressed to Peter Dale and e-mailed to peter.dale@goem.gsi.gov.uk at GOEM. Peter Dale can be contacted at GOEM on 0115 971 2596.

Those projects considered to be deliverable and offering the best fit with the objectives and delivery targets of the programme will be notified and invited to complete and submit ERDF full applications.

The Expression of Interest Form and the supporting documents can be found on <http://www.goem.gov.uk/goem/euro/>

Those in any doubt about the eligibility of potential schemes are advised to seek guidance from DCP External Funding Unit - Alec Shelton (01332 256238) or Sukie Khaira (01332 258417)