

Maximising the Impact of EU Funds – Energising Growth

Wednesday 27nd October 2010

Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) seeks to ensure that councils continue to benefit from EU money, particularly during the current economic climate when local government have to deliver more with less money and resources. In such a financial environment any additional funding support for local government service delivery from the EU is particularly welcomed. What is the true additional value of EU funds to Northern Ireland’s councils, where are the opportunities for local government and how can obstacles be removed in order to energise economic and community growth?

The purpose of this practical event is to explore not only current EU funding opportunities but also to start discussion on future European programmes post 2013. Importance will be placed on identifying those funding areas within the current round of EU funding Programmes that are under represented by local government and to encourage councils to draw down these monies while the opportunity still exists. There will be a number of practical workshops on dealing with funding obstacles and the benefits of working in partnership.

8.30 – 9.30	Media Breakfast	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration	Tea & Coffee
9.30 – 9.55	Welcome – Ministerial Conference Opening (VIP)	Cllr. Peter Weir, NILGA President VIP
9.55 – 10.35	Financial Overview – Energising Northern Ireland’s local Economy	Richard Ramsey, Head Economist Ulster Bank
10.35 – 10.50	Refreshment Break	
10.50 – 11.30	Key Note Speech – “More than Money – True Value of EU Funds”	Cllr David Sparks, LGA
11.30 – 12.00	EU Programme Overview – Funding Gaps and Innovative Opportunities	Brian McClure, DFP
12.00 – 13.45	Mapping the Impact of European Funding – setting priorities	SEUPB
12.45 –	Lunch, Exhibition and Networking	

14.00	Opportunity	
14.00 – 15.00	<p>Funding Surgeries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking EU Funding potential • Alternative European funding programmes – successful partnership building • Overcoming application obstacles 	<p>Speakers (tbc)</p> <p>Chairs - NILGA Office Bearers</p> <p>(30mins Presentation, 30mins discussion)</p> <p>Madeleine Williams, CEO GLE</p> <p>EU Connect, West Midlands Regional Assembly</p> <p>Kieran Moylan, Assistant Director BMW Regional Assembly</p>
15.00 – 15.15	Refreshment Break	
15.15 – 15.40	Funding Surgery Feedback	<p>Chair – Cllr. David Rodway, Chair NILGA Economic Development Working Group</p> <p>NILGA Office Bearers (three key actions)</p>
15.40 – 16.40	Panel Discussion –	<p>Chair – Cllr. Bell, Chair of NILGA EU Working Group</p> <p>Panel (tbc)</p>
16.40 – 16.50	Closing Remarks (Conference Key Outcomes)	Maurice Maxwell, EU Commission
16.50 – 17.00	Close	