

# **Local Government and Public Services Committee**

**LGPS(2)-08-06(p.11)**

**Date: 17 May 2006**

**Venue: Committee Room 2 Senedd, Cardiff Bay**

**Title: EU Structural Funds Programme – Scope for Enhancing Public Administration Capacity**

## **Purpose**

The Committee is being asked to note this paper.

## **Summary**

This paper, provided for information, gives details of the potential scope for funding towards strengthening institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services under the European Social Fund.

## **Background**

West Wales and the Valleys will be eligible for ERDF and ESF Convergence programmes from 2007. Post Lisbon, the EC has recognised the contribution that efficient public services can make to economic development. Consequently, one of the proposed priorities for the All Wales HR Programme (West Wales and Valleys) is likely to be building the administrative capacity of our public services.

## **Administrative Capacity Building**

This is work in progress, but in developing the Programme, we are considering how the availability of ESF funding could support strategic interventions intended to further the reforms set out in Making the Connections to develop capacity and capability.

Specific interventions might include investment in e-government, systems, enabling teams, pilots and centres of excellence and management and workforce development that would:

- Improve customer relations management and outreach;
- Improve public access to and responsiveness from services;

- Generate efficiency gains in business processes, including corporate services;
- Improve joint working between service bodies in planning, commissioning and governance arrangements at local, regional and possibly national levels;
- Investing in human capital to: improve workforce planning and development; and, develop leaders and managers and a world class pool of public service talent.

Funding would be provided through existing programmes and change agents including PSMW, Value Wales and the MtC cross-departmental budgets including the Improvement Fund.

### **Next steps**

This is work in progress however as proposals develop I will provide further advice to the committee during the course of 2006.

### **Cross Cutting Themes**

Will support the cross cutting public service improvement agenda as set out in Making the Connections.

### **Action for Subject Committee**

No specific action, just to note.

Sue Essex AM  
Minister for Local Government and Finance  
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