



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Emma Ward
Director, Local Growth
1, Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs
(by email)

T +44 (0)20 7215 3480

E emma.m.ward@bis.gsi.gov.uk

www.bis.gov.uk

19 July 2013

Dear Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs,

I am writing on behalf of BIS, DCLG, DWP and DEFRA to inform you that the Government is today issuing supplementary, technical guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) on the development of their European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) Strategies. The guidance (attached) builds on the preliminary guidance published in April.

The guidance is focussed on the information government would like LEPs to include in their ESI Funds Strategies and the criteria against which the Strategies will be evaluated. Local stakeholders have been clear with officials that they need detailed information in order to continue with their preparations. The annexes to this guidance document provide some of this detail, and are aimed primarily at the practitioners who will be doing the detailed work on the Strategies.

As part of their ESI Funds Strategies, LEPs will have to provide detail to Government on their provisional spending proposals. A spreadsheet template for LEPs to use is attached. By completing this template, LEPs will be helping Government to prepare the programming documents it needs to agree with the European Commission before spending can begin.

Government asks that LEPs submit the first drafts of their ESI Funds Strategies by 7 October.

LEPs' ESI Funds Strategies will be developed in tandem with their wider Strategic Economic Plans. Government will issue guidance to LEPs on Strategic Economic Plans and Growth Deals shortly.

Yours

Emma Ward
Director, Local Growth