



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Growth Programme Board

Chairs
Local ESI Funds Committees

24 July 2018

Colleagues,

I wrote to you in April to set out our key priorities for the year ahead, and arrangements for programme delivery after the publication of the draft Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU.

We continue to make good progress towards this year's important spend and output targets, as part of the UK's agreement to remain in the 2014-2020 ESI Funds programmes until programme closure, subject to a final negotiated agreement.

I am grateful for your support in continuing to ensure that we work together to deliver at pace and that claims are submitted accurately and promptly. This will help to maximise available funding in support of your growth priorities.

The UK is confident that a negotiated agreement will be reached and that we will continue to take part in 2014-2020 EU programmes until they end. At the same time, it is practical to consider all scenarios and to prepare contingency plans, including for a no-deal.

This is why in 2016 the UK government announced that funding will be guaranteed for ESI Funds projects contracted up to March 2019 that provide good value for money and support domestic strategic priorities.

The Government has today announced an extension to this guarantee, which will now cover the full 2014-20 programme period and allocation in the event of a no-deal. The extension means that departments will continue to sign new projects after EU exit during 2019 and 2020, up to the value of programme allocations.

This practical measure provides additional certainty, guaranteeing investment in local growth up to the end of the programmes, under either a negotiated withdrawal or no-deal. Further information about how the guarantee will be implemented will be published over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Sweeney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Sweeney', with a stylized, cursive script.

Julia Sweeney
Director, European Programmes and Local Growth