



Priority Axis 2 (PA2): Sustainable Economic and Enterprise Activity in Disadvantaged Communities

Former Coalfields Area PA2 Local Plan

This plan sets out proposals for the use of targeted assistance through the East Midlands 2007-13 ERDF Programme under Priority Axis 2 (PA2), within the five PA2 eligible district areas of the former coalfield.

The local plan aims to reduce economic disadvantage in the former coalfields PA2 areas.

The focus of the ERDF Priority Axis 2 funding will be to develop sustainable economic and enterprise activity to benefit residents of the most disadvantaged areas within the former coalfield districts of Ashfield, Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Chesterfield and Bolsover the region. The programme will specifically

- Stimulate and support new markets and enterprise opportunities;
- Build local capacity, resources and support; and
- Revive local infrastructure and environments.

Introduction

PA2 provides support and resources to localities with high levels of deprivation and low levels of economic and enterprise activity. The five eligible district areas within the former coalfields have elected to work together in the interests of maintaining a strategic approach to project activity, maximising the scope for cross-coalfields and joint working, and sharing the associated administrative and managerial tasks.

The Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) has agreed that at least 80% of the PA2 funds should be allocated to the identified districts on an indicative basis. For the five former coalfields district areas, the total indicative allocations by district area for the first four years of the programme (2007 – 2010) were as follows:

District	Total ERDF	% of total PA2
Ashfield	2,966,907	6.7
Bassetlaw	2,868,870	6.5
Bolsover	2,209,018	5.0
Chesterfield	2,587,659	5.9
Mansfield	2,569,600	5.8
Totals	13,202,054	30

The allocations are to be used to fund actions under the *support for enterprise, access to finance, access to resources and support and reviving local infrastructure and environments* strands. With regard to the first two strands of *support for enterprise* and *access to finance*, some of the actions, relating to business support, may be met

through the remaining 20% regionally managed funds. Because of this, prospective applicants for these activities will need to demonstrate that their project adds value to activity delivered elsewhere, will not duplicate alternative provision, or be able to be supported through the 20% regionally managed funds.

Local ERDF priorities and objectives

PA2 has been developed to direct resources at the region's most disadvantaged communities in order to support and develop a range of bespoke economic and enterprise activities to meet the specific identified needs of localities and target communities. The former coalfields PA2 area will operate a prioritisation methodology giving additional weight to activities which are located in, or can show a clear benefit to, the most disadvantaged parts of the eligible area.

Priority will be given to projects located in, or benefiting local people from,

- The LEGI programme area, which offers some match funding opportunities and is targeted on the most deprived neighbourhoods within the three district areas affected by it (Mansfield, Ashfield and Bolsover)
- Areas of disadvantage as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation in those district areas without a LEGI programme (Chesterfield and Bassetlaw). This is the most suitable method to identify areas of disadvantage because
 - It is based on a basket of indicators including unemployment, which was one of the criteria used in the initial selection of PA2 district areas
 - It is recent, with latest datasets published in 2007.

Individual applications for funding under PA2 in the former coalfields districts must demonstrate how they will link with most deprived neighbourhoods as identified above.

Rationale

The former coalfields district areas have a historic culture of dependency on traditional industries. They have suffered substantial job losses and continued decline in traditional manufacturing industries following the collapse of the coal mining and more recently the textile industries. These job losses occurred in an area without a strong entrepreneurial culture. Although the local economy has seen significant job growth in recent years, a lack of skilled workforce, lack of entrepreneurial culture, low aspirations amongst young people, and low educational attainment, alongside growth concentrated in low-value areas, has limited the nature of this economic growth.

The two largest towns in the area are Chesterfield and Mansfield followed by Bolsover and Worksop. Traditional villages and small market towns formerly dependent on the mining industry are surrounded by smaller traditional rural settlements in attractive countryside with substantial areas of woodland.

The rural economy offers potential to enhance and complement development in the larger urban areas through a range of business and recreation activities, which can be enhanced by promotion of tourist attractions such as Sherwood Forest, Bolsover Castle, Hardwick Hall and Creswell Crags and proximity to the Peak District National Park, adjoins the north west part of the area.

The M1 and A1 cross the area from north to south but east west journeys are more difficult, and some rural communities are still isolated. The Robin Hood line has enabled new opportunities for commuting to Nottingham and the new M1 Junction

29A will improve access into Bolsover District. The nearby Robin Hood Airport offers new air links to the area.

Enterprise Support

The majority of enterprise support actions with the PA2 areas will be addressed by the 20% regionally-managed element for enterprise support. Whilst the local plan contains enterprise support actions, it is recognised that the plan will support actions which are unlikely to be achieved through the 20% and in all cases, potential projects will need to demonstrate that their provision is complementary to services provided either through that 20% programme, or through Business Link.

Business registration within the area is weak. In 2004 the area recorded a VAT registration rate of 31.2 businesses per 10,000 population, the lowest of any sub-area within the East Midlands (Source: Regional Economic Strategy (RES), p145). The importance of an entrepreneurial culture is emphasised in the RES (p137) with identification of how a strong entrepreneurial base can help foster social and economic cohesion, create economic inclusion opportunities in deprived areas both in terms of ownership and employment opportunities, and help to contribute to personal well-being. Social enterprises are recognised as having potential to deliver additional benefits such as social and environmental benefits as well as job growth (RES, p130). The former coalfields local plan therefore includes the following priorities to encourage entrepreneurship and the growth of business registrations within the area:

- *Increasing the entrepreneurial ethos of residents both young and old*
- *Encouraging under-represented groups to set up and sustain in business*
- *Increase the rate of sustainable business creation*
- *Assist businesses to become innovative, improve competitiveness and raise productivity with the aim of fostering business survival*
- *Support for social enterprises*

The former coalfields areas have already piloted entrepreneurial schemes through the LEGI programme and the recently established 'Greenhouse' network for Creative Industries has demonstrated the potential to increase productivity; assist micro-enterprise creation and survival and the growth of key sectors, in particular for the knowledge-based industries and media & creative industries. The creative and cultural industries sector is specifically mentioned in the RES as crucial to the economic success of the region because of their role in attracting and retaining skilled and talented investors, graduates and young people, as well as contributing to local residents' quality of life (RES, p70). The knowledge-based sector was selected for support because of the quality of jobs associated with this sector and its potential to address the low-wage issues in the former coalfields area. The aviation sector was selected to build on the opportunities offered by the new Robin Hood airport. The associated priority is:

- *Business start-up and survival support in priority communities and sectors: knowledge-based industries, media and creative industries, aviation*

The former coalfields economy is dominated by SMEs, which are vulnerable to global competition. (Source: RES, p27). Business survival rates in the former coalfields areas are lower than the East Midlands and national averages. In the year 2000,

90.5% of businesses that registered for VAT survived for over one year and 78.8% survived for over two years. In Derbyshire 87.8% survived for one year and just 76.5% survived for two years. In Nottinghamshire 88.9% survived for one year and 77.3% survived for two years (Source: Small Business Service Website, 2005). Business survival may be assisted by diversification support and the former coalfields plan identifies measures to promote diversification within the rural economy and within social enterprises as particular areas for support. Farm diversification is identified within the East Midlands Rural Action Plan as a potential opportunity for employment growth as well as helping to sustain land-based businesses (RAP, p17), as well as having links to the climate change agenda. Social enterprise growth and sustainability can deliver social and environmental benefits as well as job growth (RES, p130).

The estimated value of public sector contracts in the UK is between 11% and 18% of GDP (Source: Office of Fair Trading report into Assessing the impact of public sector procurement on competition, 2004).¹ The former coalfields PA2 group has therefore set a local objective around public procurement with the aim of maximising the benefit of these opportunities to the local area, again with the aim of assisting the survival of local enterprises:

- *Promote diversification within the rural economy and within social enterprises*
- *Provide support for local businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities*

Access to Finance

The majority of actions relating to access to business finance actions with the PA2 areas will be addressed by the 20% regionally-managed element for enterprise support. The local plan expects to concentrate on actions unlikely to be achieved through the 20%. In all cases, potential projects will need to demonstrate that their provision is complementary to services provided elsewhere.

The RES highlights the importance of economic inclusion measures in increasing and sustaining economic participation rates (p133). The former coalfields focus on additional business grant support to facilitate engagement with hard-to-reach businesses is intended to help address exclusion by supporting businesses from within deprived areas. Additionally, existing CDFI schemes do not offer grants under £3000 and ERDF support could help to close this gap. The RES has identified how social enterprises can be important vehicles both for mobilising latent talent and building capacity of local areas to develop and sustain economic opportunities (p128). The priority to build capacity of local social enterprises through grant support also intends to support these social enterprises in encouraging enterprise growth within the communities they serve.

- *Provision of extra, discretionary grant resources to facilitate engagement with hard to reach businesses, support the work of business advisors, support key sectors and close gaps in provision elsewhere*
- *Build capacity within local businesses and social enterprises through grant schemes*

¹ According to the OFT report, HM Treasury estimated that public procurement, excluding public corporations, was worth £117 billion in the financial year 2002-3, which is around 11 per cent of GDP. Figures used by the European Commission (2004, p.4 f) suggests that public procurement in UK was worth 18.4 per cent of GDP in 2002.

Premises, employment sites and enterprise facilities

The former coalfields economy is in a low skills – low wages equilibrium.

With respect to the qualifications indicator of skills as a percentage of the working age population, the former coalfields area underperforms against both regional and national level indicators, as shown in the table below:

Qualifications /equivalent Performance indicator	Alliance Sub-region % of working age population	East Midlands % of working age population	Great Britain % of working age population
Below Level 2 (including no qualifications)	41.6	35.4	35.3
Level 2	21.6	22.1	21.7
Level 3	21	19.6	18.8
Level 4	15.7	19.9	24.2

(Source: State of the Alliance Sub-region Local Futures 2004)

These figures hide intra-regional variations, e.g. Ashfield is ranked 382 out of 408 UK districts in terms of skills levels – only 15% of working age population with NVQ4 or above and 45% with less than level 2.

Within the five eligible district areas, the proportion of people of working age who have no qualifications varies between 16% and 20%, significantly above the national average of 10% (Annual population survey, December 2005).

Low skills levels are both a function of and a contributing factor to wage levels. Weekly rates of pay within former coalfields district areas can be as much as 15% below the national average (Source: Alliance SRIP, 2007).

The main priorities for the former coalfields local plan relating to this issue are to seek to improve both the skills levels of local residents and the number of quality job opportunities available. Skills levels may be addressed on the supply side by ESF-funded training activity; on the demand side (increasing the number of opportunities for highly skilled/qualified workers to obtain employment e.g. by raising the aspirations of employers for higher levels of skills amongst their employees; increasing the number of quality jobs in the sub-region for which higher levels of skills are required) they may be addressed through ERDF. The former coalfields PA2 action plan contains relevant actions both under this *premises* strand and the strand on *access to resources and support* below.

The former coalfields area is in a good location in relation to transport links and has a relatively good land supply. The M1 corridor is an essential route for tourists and employees into the area, served by Junctions 28, 29 and 30. The development of an additional junction (J29a) at Markham Vale will enable better access to east, west and central parts of the area. However, relatively cheap land prices lead to sites being absorbed into distribution and lower value-added manufacturing and service uses. These types of uses do not assist the former coalfields in moving away from its situation as a low-skills and low-wage economy. Therefore, a priority for this PA2 plan is to encourage the development of sites for quality employment. Work is

already underway on key potential employment sites, such as the A61 Corridor and Sherwood Growth Zone, to address this.

The experience of the former coalfields area is that the market will not provide appropriate business accommodation speculatively. There are certain areas in which the private sector will not engage because of high risks and low returns, such as speculative office developments, especially in town centre locations; incubation space, particularly non-standard accommodation such as Neighbourhood Business Incubation facilities, serviced land for owner-occupation on freehold or long leasehold basis and small workshop provision. Three recent innovation centres in north Nottinghamshire were constructed by the public sector to meet identified gaps in supply and other recent private sector developments have required grant support e.g. Arrival Square Office Development and I-Centre Phase 2. The Northern Sub-Region Employment Land Study identifies an undersupply of quality employment sites (p28) as well as a need for incubator and graduation space. This study also notes the reluctance of developers to provide speculative developments in the area, and attributes this to comparatively low rents (p101) and property values. Providing a range of employment and enterprise premises is also intended to maximise the opportunities for business survival by ensuring that appropriate scale premises are available for all sizes of business.

These issues will be addressed through the following local priorities:

- *Provision of training infrastructure to meet the skills needs of businesses*
- *Growth of quality employment through development of strategic sites*
- *Provision of a range of employment premises and enterprise facilities*
- *Encouraging new and existing businesses to locate to or remain in the area*

Access to Resources and Support

As well as the general situation of comparatively low skills levels described above, the former coalfields area experiences low levels of economic activity and high levels of benefit dependency.

The RES notes that parts of the sub-area exhibit characteristics of “acute employment deprivation” – particularly Mansfield and Bolsover (RES, p145). Estimates of ‘hidden unemployment’ are also high in the sub-area, where levels of incapacity benefit claimants suggest that health problems constitute a significant barrier to economic participation. Earnings are the lowest of the five sub-areas of the East Midlands. The average earnings of those whose jobs are located in the sub-area are considerably lower than the average earnings of local residents – which suggest that those workers who are more highly paid commute to work outside the former coalfields.

In terms of economic activity, according to ONS figures for March 2006, the East Midlands regional rate of economic activity was 80%. In the former coalfields, economic activity rates ranged between 73.8% (Mansfield) and 79.7% (Bassetlaw).

The job seeker claimant count in the PA2 districts exceeds the national and regional figures in four of the five Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire former coalfields districts: at February 2007, the proportion of the working age population in receipt of job seeker’s allowance (JSA rate) was 3.3 in Chesterfield; 2.8 in Bolsover and Mansfield and 2.6 in

Ashfield, compared to the England rate of 2.5 and the East Midlands rate of 2.4. Only Bassetlaw was below the national average at 2.1. Across all five districts this amounted to 8294 people receiving JSA in February 2007. (Source: JSA claims by ward, Feb 2007)

In addition in February 2007, 30,810 residents of working age across the five PA2 districts in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire were in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. As a proportion of the working age population the rate was 11.3 in Mansfield, 11.2 in Bolsover; 10.0 in Chesterfield, 9.2 in Bassetlaw and 9.0 in Ashfield, compared to the England rate of 6.8 and the East Midlands rate of 6.6. (Source: IB/SDA claims by ward, Feb 2007).

The former coalfields district areas contain a mix of rural and urban areas. Whilst the district areas of Mansfield, Ashfield and Chesterfield are largely urban, Bassetlaw and Bolsover contain large rural elements. Rural wage levels and relative poverty are well documented; the East Midlands Rural Action Plan describes weaker labour markets, a reliance on local, relatively low paid employment and a higher proportion of the population working in agriculture (RAP, p11). People living in rural areas face particular barriers to employment caused by distances. The former coalfields PA2 plan therefore includes a priority to assist with connecting local people to areas of job growth through transport schemes.

With regard to addressing the issue of low skills levels more widely, the former coalfields local plan aims to increase aspirations of employers for higher levels of skills amongst their staff. This action is also intended to complement the priority to increase the number of local jobs for which higher levels of skills are desired, through the provision of sites and premises to encourage the growth of quality jobs, as outlined in the *premises* strand above.

To address these issues, the former coalfields PA2 plan includes the following priorities:

- *Connection of local people to job growth areas; removal of barriers to employment*
- *Connection of “workless” and long term unemployed people to employment, including self-employment*
- *Community economic development activity to encourage people to engage in the local economy*
- *Promotion of the benefits of a highly qualified and skilled workforce to employers*

Reviving local infrastructure and environments

The RES notes a key challenge for the sub-region of addressing the environmental damage associated with its industrial past.

Notwithstanding the area’s industrial past, there is much countryside in large parts of the sub-region. Bolsover, Chesterfield and Bassetlaw are characterised by a largely rural environment, whereas Mansfield and Ashfield are mainly urban in character. Despite the quality of the rural environment, there is still a significant amount of work to be done to enhance the existing infrastructure and build on opportunities. There

are also negative perceptions from residents that need to be addressed to raise the aspirations of the PA2 area.

To address this issue, the former coalfields PA2 plan contains the following priorities:

- *Provision of infrastructure to support a diverse economy*
- *Improve the appearance of business areas, town centres and gateways to the former coalfields area with an emphasis on attractiveness for business investment and tourism and reducing crime in business locations*

Linkages to European programmes

The tables below demonstrate how the former coalfields PA2 local priorities, as outlined above, link to the ERDF Operational Programme (OP), Priority Axis 1 and the ESF Programme:

Links to ERDF Operational Programme

OP aim	Contributing local priorities
Increase the size and diversity of the enterprise base	Encourage growth of entrepreneurial ethos of local residents (Action 2a-1) Schemes to encourage under-represented groups to set up in business. Increase the rate of sustainable business creation; Assist businesses to become innovative, improve competitiveness and raise productivity with the aim of fostering business survival (Action 2a-1) Support business start ups in priority sectors: knowledge-based industries; media & creative sector. (Action 2a-1) Measures to promote diversification within the rural economy and within social enterprises (Action 2a-2) Provide support for local businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities (Action 2a-3)
Stimulate market demand within localities and their market linkages to other areas	Measures to promote diversification within the rural economy and within social enterprises (Action 2a-2) Provide support for local businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities (Action 2a-3)
Increase the level of private sector investment in disadvantaged communities	Provision of training infrastructure to meet the needs of businesses Growth of quality employment through development of strategic sites Provision of a range of employment premises and enterprise facilities (all under Action 2a-4)
Improve access to employment opportunities	Encouraging new and existing businesses to remain in or locate to the area Connection of local people to job growth areas and removal of barriers to employment Connection of workless and long term unemployed people to employment, including self-employment Promotion of benefits of a highly qualified/skilled

	workforce to employers Community economic development activity (All under Action 2c-1)
Improve the physical (green and built) environments and attractiveness of deprived areas	Provision of infrastructure to support a diverse economy Improving the appearance of business areas, town centres and gateways to the former coalfields with an emphasis on attractiveness for business investment and tourism and reducing crime in business areas (All under Action 2d-1)

Links to ERDF PA1

ERDF Priority Axis 1	Complementarity to PA2 activities
1b Innovation support for businesses	Whilst the PA1 actions are focused on development of innovation activities within businesses, PA2 takes a more generic approach to business support with actions including start-up support, grant funds to support enterprise, and measures to promote diversification. Action 2b includes small grants in the field of Research & Development/innovation to contribute to activities to build new technologies and increase innovation in the PA2 former coalfields area
1c Environment for Innovation 1c-2 & 1c-3 include support for innovation premises	The former coalfields local plan allows for a range of business premises to be constructed and these would complement those innovation-specific premises to be supported under PA1

Links to European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF CFO LSC Plan	Contributing local priorities
Priority 1 increasing employment, reducing unemployment & inactivity Improving employability / skills of economically inactive people (inc self employment)	Whilst not providing direct skills training, under action 2c the local plan will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage self employment as a result of community economic development activity, • Engage with employers to devise job match schemes leading to new employment and opportunities for PA2 residents and to promote the benefits of a highly qualified/skilled workforce • Provide opportunities to construct training infrastructure which could then be used in the delivery of vocational training for economically inactive people
Tackling barriers to work faced by disadvantaged groups	Under action 2c, the ERDF local plan includes supporting transport and connectivity schemes to connect people with vocational training and employment opportunities. This would address particular physical barriers to employment

Priority 2 – developing a skilled and adaptable workforce	ERDF will add value to ESF by supporting the development of higher skilled jobs. This will be done through a focus on site and premises development for use by knowledge-based sectors, which will eventually lead to the development of higher level and managerial skills and entrepreneurship, and through schemes to promote the benefits of a highly qualified and skilled workforce to local employers
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Relation to Sub-regional Strategies

Sub Regional Investment Plan

The former coalfields PA2 plan will add value to the Alliance SSP's objectives by delivering an economic programme within the sub-region. This will help the growth of the former coalfields economy to contribute to the SSP vision:

'To help achieve a vibrant and growing economy which can break out of the 'low wage-low skills' equilibrium over the next 15 years and simultaneously enable greater prosperity to be shared by all'

The PA2 plan will support the SSP's key themes, particularly:

- *Support for growing and innovative businesses* – the former coalfields focus will be on assisting SMEs to maximise participation in public procurement opportunities, thus encouraging business survival and growth, as well as supporting diversification of rural businesses and social enterprises, and supporting business start up in key sectors.
- *Land and development investment* - complementary to the Sub-Regional Investment Plan (SRIP), former coalfields PA2 will also give priority to the development of the two growth zones of Sherwood and North Derbyshire (incorporating the A61 corridor). Development in these areas will be linked to the Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire Innovation Network Property Strategy. The SRIP has already identified the importance of follow-on space linked to the successful Business Innovation Centre programme, and the former coalfields plan includes support for property ladder schemes to provide follow on space for growing businesses.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES) 2006 - 2020

The former coalfields local plan will contribute to the following RES priorities:

RES priority	Fit with PA2 Plan
Employment, learning and skills: To move more people into better jobs in growing businesses	Growth of quality employment, to be achieved by development of strategic sites and property suitable for use by knowledge-based SMEs (Action 2a-3). Provision of new or refurbished training infrastructure to meet the skills requirements of businesses (Action 2a-4). Promotion of the benefits of a highly qualified/skilled workforce to employers (Action 2c). Community economic development activity which will engage local people from disadvantaged areas (Action 2c) in economic activity - could lead to engagement with learning and training opportunities delivered through other programmes, e.g. ESF

Enterprise and business support	Scope for business support services is included within the PA2 local plan but will be subject to avoiding duplication with the 20% regionally managed PA2 enterprise support programme. Encouraging entrepreneurship, business start up by under-represented groups, support for priority sectors & establishment of social enterprises (Action 2a-1). Diversification in rural businesses and social enterprises (Action 2a-2). Support for SMEs in accessing and exploiting public procurement opportunities (Action 2a-3). Business grant schemes: extra grant resources for hard-to-reach businesses / key sectors; grant schemes to build capacity within local businesses / social enterprises (Action 2b)
Innovation: To develop a dynamic region founded upon innovative and knowledge focused businesses	Development of technology parks and premises to support innovation-based businesses. Follow-on space for businesses growing out of their initial premises within the existing network of innovation centres (Action 2a-4).
Transport and logistics: To improve quality of regional infrastructure to enable better connectivity within the region	Transport schemes to connect local people with places of employment and training within the former coalfields PA2 area (Action 2c)
Energy and resources: to transform the way we use resources and use and generate energy to ensure a sustainable economy and high quality environment	Use of resources will be a cross-cutting theme for the whole PA2 Plan and each project will need to provide information on its environmental sustainability. Projects involving construction of business premises are expected to be to current energy efficiency standards (Action 2a-4)
Environmental protection: to protect and enhance the region's environment through sustainable economic growth	Development of green infrastructure; public realm improvements; environmental improvements for business premises. (Action 2d). This will have impacts on recreation / leisure, biodiversity and overall socio-economic benefit.
Land and development: to ensure the quality and supply of development land contributes towards sustainable growth of the regional economy	Development of quality employment sites in the Sherwood Growth Zone and North Derbyshire Growth Zone (Action 2a-4)
Cohesive Communities; Economic Renewal; Economic Inclusion	Action 2c seeks to increase access to economic and employment opportunities, particularly for people from deprived neighbourhoods, long term unemployed / those experiencing worklessness. It includes: community economic development activity to encourage people to engage in the local economy; promotion of alternatives to traditional employment such as part time entrepreneurship, social enterprise and local trading schemes; action to address barriers to labour market participation e.g. transport



Relation to local strategies

The table below summarises the fit between the former coalfields local plan and a range of local strategies, including the two Local Area Agreements, which set out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at the local level, the two county-level Community Strategies, the five district-level Local Strategic Partnership Strategies, and the joint LEGI strategy which covers the three district areas of Ashfield, Bolsover and Mansfield.

Strategy	Priorities	ERDF PA2 Strand						
		2a Enterprise Support				Access to Finance	Access to Resources and Support	Reviving Local Infrastructure and
		2a-1	2a-2	2a-3	2a-4	2b	2c-1	2d-1
Derbyshire LAA	Address Employment Issues Priority is to address Worklessness and make a difference to the numbers moving off benefit into employment. Indicator 153: - Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods						√	
	Address education and skills issues to improve employability: NI 117 – reduce the number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment NI 163 – increase the number of the working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher						√	
	Support Business Growth Support the development of sector specific initiatives to take advantage of local business potential NI: 172 - VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth	√	√	√				

	Support social and community enterprises NI8 - Environment for a thriving third sector	√	√	√				
	Attract new businesses, visitors and investors NI 169 – improved access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling				√			√
Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy	Address Employment Issues: Identify and tackle the barriers that people face in accessing jobs and services Increase employment (in particular for disadvantaged and underrepresented groups) Encourage people to develop skills and qualifications through lifelong learning Support area based projects in disadvantaged communities						√	
	Support Business Growth Increase economic productivity in rural areas	√	√	√				
	Attract new businesses, visitors and investors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the local economy through regeneration, tourism and culture Provide affordable and decent housing Improve the cleanliness of streets and reduce fly tipping and litter Improve the condition of roads, reduce congestion and limit the environmental impacts of transport. 				√	√		
	Develop a high quality infrastructure to support businesses and visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-use land and buildings in preference to developing greenfield sites Minimise the need to travel by influencing the location of new and relocated facilities and ensure access by travel methods other than the car Improve access to public transport and encourage walking and cycling Continue to work to protect and improve the natural and built environment 				√			
Nottinghamshire LAA	Procurement Supporting local suppliers to understand the public sector procurement opportunities available and to allow SMEs to maintain and win new public sector contracts			√				

	Increasing employment Increasing employment rate for Notts; Decreasing inactivity rate for Notts				√		√	
	Climate For Investment Increasing volume of new / upgraded employment floorspace for knowledge economy				√			
	Enterprising economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting appropriate inward investors making use of local labour resources Increasing total entrepreneurial activity; increasing VAT registrations 	√			√			
Nottinghamshire Framework Community Strategy Priority 3 Learning & Earning	Reducing unemployment, particularly to help the hardest to reach into work, and raising skills levels in the workforce in order to build a higher value and more productive local economy.						√	
	Ensuring that all areas have access to work, improving transport services to towns and district centres where jobs are concentrated and tackling barriers preventing access to learning, training and work						√	
	Addressing the development of local businesses as well as the needs of inward investors. We should jointly exploit locational advantages and range of incentives to build a diversified and flexible economy	√	√	√	√	√		
CHART Community Strategy	Address Employment Issues - Sub aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to remove barriers to employment Provide support to unemployed people 						√	
	Support Business Growth - Sub aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of sector specific initiatives to take advantage of local business potential Provide a range of business support services to increase the competitiveness of local companies and facilitate new business start ups Support social and community enterprises 	√	√	√				
	Attract new businesses, visitors and investors - Sub aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a range of marketing activities to attract and retain investment in the CHART area Market the area as a tourist destination Provide a co-ordinated response to investment enquiries including the provision of an aftercare service for companies successfully locating to the area or expanding within it Boost the attractiveness and secure the long term viability of the areas town and village centre (specifically Chesterfield with regard to PA2). 				√		√	

	<p>Develop a high quality infrastructure to support businesses and visitors - Sub aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of quality employment sites which are available for immediate development • Support the provision of a range of premises which meet the needs of the existing business base and supports the growth of new business sectors • Maintain and develop a high quality physical business infrastructure to maximise the success of local companies • Develop the tourism product/infrastructure when opportunity presents itself • Maintain and develop a high standard of tourist information for visitors to the area 				√			
<p>Bolsover Sustainable Community Strategy: 2006 - 2020</p>	<p>Address Employment Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop entrepreneurial and business skills in young people • Improve attainment in all key stages as defined in the local Education Action Plan, and support the most disadvantaged so they get the most out of learning, as a pathway to prosperity 	√					√	
	<p>Support Business Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop entrepreneurial and business skills in young people • To boost business support by assisting 25 clients across the district by 2008 	√	√	√		√		
	<p>Attract new businesses, visitors and investors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To connect people to jobs by actively encouraging local employment at major new development sites. • To increase tourism growth by supporting businesses and encouraging new business development 	√	√		√	√	√	
	<p>Develop a high quality infrastructure to support businesses and visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stimulate the enterprise culture by developing affordable incubation space for 12 businesses by 2008 				√	√		√
<p>Alliance for Enterprise (LEGI) Partnership comprising</p>	<p>Address Employment Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways to Work – This project aims to reduce the barrier of travel to provide means of transport that would enable individuals to access employment. • Enterprise Academy – This project works with a small number of secondary schools within the LEGI area and aims to create and maintain a culture of enterprise among the area’s youngsters. Private sector participation is a key factor in the success of this project 						√	

Bolsover, Ashfield & Mansfield LA's	Support Business Growth							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to one business mentoring – This is aimed at increasing the number of new sustainable businesses created by individuals living in disadvantaged communities. The BizzFizz model has been used to implement this project. • Outreach Business Support – Three highly experienced “mentors” from the private sector have been employed to provide intensive support to businesses in need of assistance on a wide range of issues. These officers are very proactive in their approach to engagement with businesses • Social Enterprise Support – This project aims to provide the specialist support needed by fledgling or established social enterprises, leaving their more general support needs to be met from other parts of the programme or via the BL service. 	√	√	√				
	Attract new businesses, visitors and investors							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the Connection – This project aims to increase the take up of new employment opportunities by individuals living in disadvantaged areas. The new employment opportunities could arise from an inward investment or alternatively, from an existing local business' growth. • Public Sector Procurement – This project aims to equip local businesses with the necessary knowledge and skills to allow them to compete for local authority and other public sector contacts. • Local Supply Chain Networks – This project makes connections between local businesses to encourage local business to business relationships. 	√		√			√	
	Develop a high quality infrastructure to support businesses and visitors							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to finance – To address problems that local businesses may have had in obtaining finance for their development, a CDFI was used. • Business Realm – A project aimed at improving the appearance of employment areas within the 3 districts and reducing the incidence and fear of business crime. The project has £100k of capital funding for each year from 2008/09 to 2010/11. • Property Ladder – A project aimed at plugging identified gaps in the provision of business premises. The main focus to date has been in the provision of office/workshop incubation space for fledgling businesses. 				√	√		√
Ashfield Sustainable Community and	ENTERPRISE FOR ALL – to create a culture of enterprise both within businesses and local communities. We must embrace technology to improve education and business support. We must encourage enterprise within schools and support innovation, both in business development and in how public services are delivered to the community.	√	√	√		√	√	

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 2006 - 2021	MORE WORK AND BETTER JOBS – to increase employment and activity rates, ensuring that both today’s workforce and tomorrow’s workforce are properly equipped to secure well-paid and satisfying employment. Also to help local people obtain higher skilled and higher paid jobs as they become available.	√					√	
	BETTER EDUCATION, NEW SKILLS – to create a competitive education and skills offer, we must place education and learning at the heart of all our plans, both in terms of an educated workforce and an educated community.	√					√	
	ATTRACTING NEW INVESTMENT – to create the conditions to attract new business investment to Ashfield, through better support and information, an educated and ambitious workforce, improved infrastructure and attractive housing, improved amenities and local environment				√			√
	PROSPERITY FOR LOCAL BUSINESS– to support the growth and expansion of existing businesses, by helping to prepare businesses and their workforces to perform well in the knowledge economy.		√	√	√	√	√	√
Moving Forward: Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-09	To address skills and worklessness by: moving residents who are not in work or self-employment onto the employment ladder, and also encouraging the development of employees in paid employment to develop their skills to move up the ladder						√	
	Communication and Engagement with local Businesses	√	√	√	√	√		√
	To create an Enterprising and Knowledge-based Economy	√	√		√	√		
	To create a climate for investment and competitiveness	√	√	√	√	√		
	To stimulate and enhance Town Centres				√			√
	Increase Tourism within the District					√		√
	To increase Employment and Economic Activity rates						√	
The Big Picture: Sustainable Community Strategy for	Addressing low income levels – reducing the gap between average income in the Mansfield district and the rest of the East Midlands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To attract new businesses into the area that will provide higher paying employment. To support existing businesses to grow 	√	√	√	√	√		

Mansfield 2007-2015	Raising Employment Rates – increasing the number of working age population actually in employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiative such as the Getting Into Work Project that provide one to one support for workless individuals. To co-ordinate activities of all partners to give seamless approach to clients and employers 						√	
	Promoting Business Growth – Increasing the number of business start ups and stronger business survival rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support new start ups through the LEGI Programme and other initiatives Creation of neighbourhood incubation units that provide premises for new start up businesses 	√	√	√	√	√		
	Creating an Enterprise Culture – through the LEGI programme with an emphasis on young people and enterprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a enterprise culture in young people through projects such as the LEGI Enterprise Academy Project Work with other agencies such as Nottinghamshire Education Business Alliance and the Prince’s Trust to develop project that will raise enterprise in young people 	√						
	Developing Employment Sites – developing employment sites around the Sherwood Growth Zone optimising the MARR route and town centre opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop brownfield town centre sites for new office employment Develop new serviced commercial land 				√			√
	Improving the Transport Infrastrucutre – developing a new transport interchange for Mansfield and improved rail services To develop the new Mansfield Transport Interchange and ensure that it fully benefits the town centre						√	√
	Culture and Leisure Facilities – growing the cultural and leisure infrastructure Develop a range of cultural and leisure opportunities in Mansfield	√						√

Potential Actions

The following table sets out the proposed delivery actions for the former coalfields area local priorities.

Strand	Ref:	Indicative PA2 actions	Local priorities	Potential activities
2a. Enterprise Support	2a-1	Enhanced enterprise and start-up initiatives including enterprise awareness coaching, mentoring provision and initiatives to support enterprise in target communities	<p>Increasing the entrepreneurial ethos of residents both young and old</p> <p>Encouraging under-represented groups to set up and sustain in business</p> <p>Increasing the rate of sustainable business creation</p> <p>Business start-up and survival support in priority communities and sectors:</p>	<p>Engagement programmes between local employers and schools e.g. projects to encourage entrepreneurship among school pupils, Enterprise Academy models. Schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among graduates. Maintenance of entrepreneurs forum for pre-start & new start businesses.</p> <p>Pre-start and pre-pre-start activity, especially community-delivered, accessible to hard-to-reach groups. Pre-start activity targeted at women, BME communities and social enterprise within disadvantaged communities as identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Programmes to build confidence to start businesses e.g. financial forecasting to compare business income with benefits, use of financial / accounting software, peer mentoring schemes.</p> <p>Programmes which help develop business skills building on successful models such as BizFizz coaches. Rural outreach schemes. Targeted programmes within local communities to develop businesses.</p> <p>Support for networks, mentoring schemes and supply chain advice within these sectors, building on existing networks where possible. Sector-specific outreach support</p>

		<p>knowledge-based industries, media and creative industries, aviation</p> <p>Assisting businesses to become innovative, improve competitiveness and raise productivity with the aim of fostering business survival</p> <p>Support for social enterprises</p>	<p>to help develop businesses and improve survival rates.</p> <p>Programmes to foster excellence and innovation in businesses, e.g. graduate recruitment schemes, innovation and knowledge transfer projects, innovation / technology counsellors. Professional service voucher schemes.</p> <p>Start up and survival support targeted specifically on social enterprises and community-run resource centres, which can be shown to complement other social enterprise support services.</p>
2a-2	Bespoke business support initiatives for businesses and social enterprises to develop and enter new markets	<p>Measures to promote rural diversification</p> <p>Measures to promote diversification within social enterprises</p>	<p>Schemes to promote rural diversification by technology e.g. renewable energy and carbon reduction.</p> <p>Financial healthchecks and diversification advice targeted on social enterprises and community-run resource centres.</p>

	2a-3	Developing the capacity of local businesses and social enterprises to access local procurement opportunities.	Provide support for local businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities	<p>Provision of specific business advice on public procurement, providing information and advice to enable local SMEs and social enterprises to successfully navigate public sector procurement procedures and successfully tender for business. Typical advice may include guidance on how to bid, maintaining awareness of opportunities, relevant law, including health and safety, equal opportunities, and environmental legislation.</p> <p>Awareness raising actions on collaboration options, support for the local supply chain and encouragement for main contractors to sub-contract with local businesses.</p> <p>Provision of support actions around online trading, slanted towards support of the local supply chain and public procurement.</p>
	2a-4	Creation and refurbishment of premises, employment sites and small scale enterprise facilities.	<p>Provision of training infrastructure to meet the skills needs of businesses</p> <p>Growth of <u>quality</u> employment through development of strategic sites</p>	<p>Construction and fitting out / equipping of appropriate training facilities to address identified business needs and/or to the benefit of employers moving into the strategic site development as described below. To include centres of excellence, and integrated training facilities attached to new school development (Building Schools for the Future programme).</p> <p>Site development within the framework of the RSS Northern Sub-Region, delivering priorities within the North Derbyshire Growth Zone (including Markham Vale), the A61 corridor (including Chesterfield waterfront development, Staveley Ironworks LDF), the Sherwood Growth Zone (including relocation of West Notts College and associated site development), sites adjoining the</p>

			<p>Provision of a range of employment premises and enterprise facilities</p> <p>Encouraging new and existing businesses to remain in or locate to the area</p>	<p>MARR, the Robin Hood Airport Growth Zone, Junction 28 (including Castlewood development) and other sites of strategic importance (e.g. Rolls Royce site in Hucknall), and town centres / key settlements.</p> <p>Neighbourhood incubation networks, innovation centres, enterprise centres - potentially with University links Sector-specific premises (e.g. creative / arts / media industries). Office developments in town centres; rural technology centres. Provision of new workspace; upgrades of existing workspace into higher quality employment space to improve the quality of associated jobs. Conversion of derelict or redundant buildings into new business premises. Property ladder schemes - graduation/follow-on space to support existing successful Business Incubation/Innovation Centres</p> <p>Property search facilities & inward investment publications and activities.</p>
2b Access to Finance		Development and provision of appropriate financial instruments / Access to finance and investor readiness support	<p>Provision of extra grant resources to facilitate engagement with hard to reach businesses and support key sectors, and to close gaps in provision elsewhere</p> <p>Build capacity within local businesses and social</p>	<p>Grants schemes to support SMEs in deprived areas or otherwise judged as hard to reach; grant schemes for the priority sectors of R&D/innovation, media & creative industries, and tourism. Discretionary grant funds below the threshold of CDFI tied to other forms of business support such as outreach workers e.g. BizFizz coaches.</p> <p>Grant schemes to enable local resources centres become more enterprising, including encouraging enterprise in the</p>

			enterprises through grant schemes	communities they serve. Small grants to SMEs for purchase of capital equipment. Capacity building grants e.g. Enterprise Support Grants, small business soft loan schemes. Discretionary funds for outreach workers such as BizFizz coaches.
2c. Access to Resources and Support	2c-1	Developing and improving access to employment opportunities, including local transport initiatives, connectivity (including ICT) and accessibility.	<p>Connection of local people to job growth areas; removal of barriers to employment, covering both transport and communications</p> <p>Connection of “workless” and long term unemployed people to employment, including self-employment</p> <p>Community economic development activity to encourage people to engage in the local economy</p>	<p>Local transport initiatives, especially to areas of job growth or for people living in rural areas, designed to connect people with vocational training opportunities and employment. (Examples: Ways to Work scheme, joint ticketing, share-a-ride schemes, transport interchanges). ICT infrastructure projects designed to promote employment and economic activity e.g. homeworking.</p> <p>Intensive, community-based support to enable long term unemployed and “workless” individuals to return to the labour market. Employer-focused connectivity schemes seeking to job-match individuals with employers, along the successful models of the Making the Connection or Family Employment Initiative (job match elements, engagement of employers, employment of development workers). Exploration of scope for joint working with Job Centre Plus to support people into self-employment, those on benefits and not eligible for the 26 week “test trading” initiative.</p> <p>Promotion of part-time entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Credit union development, local exchange and trading schemes e.g. “slivers of time” type projects matching local people with small time available for work with paid opportunities.</p>

			Promotion of the benefits of a highly qualified and skilled workforce to employers	Employer-focused schemes to promote the benefits of employing qualified and skilled staff, such as graduate retention / recruitment schemes, demonstration schemes to highlight benefits of employing highly skills staff.
2d. Reviving Local Infrastructure and Environments	2d-1	Rehabilitation and development of local environments to create more attractive places for communities and investors.	<p>Provision of infrastructure to support a diverse economy</p> <p>Improve the appearance of business areas, town centres and gateways to the former coalfields area with an emphasis on attractiveness for business investment and tourism, and reducing crime in business locations</p>	<p>Developers Forums, reclamation of and infrastructure to brownfield and derelict sites; green infrastructure, green routes to work and public open space.</p> <p>Investment in business and public realm improvements. Business improvements should be targeted on business consortia or shared environments e.g. local business parks.</p> <p>Public realm investments should be consistent with local plans and partnership aspirations (as expressed e.g. by area-based partnership agreements, town centre masterplans, conservation strategies such as those informing Townscape Heritage Initiatives), and demonstrably able to act as a catalyst for both investment and entrepreneurial activity.</p> <p>Business crime reduction measures (in e.g. high streets, business parks) may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical improvements • advice and guidance, with an emphasis on demonstration of best practice and sustainability (e.g. support from business crime experts)



Apportioned District Outputs, Results and Impacts

The outputs, results and impacts expected to be generated by investment under the former coalfields PA2 for the first four years of the seven year programme are set out below. Some of these outputs will be achieved through the regionally delivered 20% enterprise support programme.

Outputs	Target
No of businesses assisted to improve performance	632
Public and private investment leveraged (€)	22,040,571
Sq metres of new or upgraded floorspace (internal premises)	3,246
No. of people assisted to start a business	461
Brownfield land reclaimed or redeveloped (ha)	3

Results	Target
No. of jobs created	1,059
No. of businesses improving performance	564
GVA (Gross Value Added) resulting from businesses improving performance (€)	20,161,143
No. of new businesses created and new businesses attracted to the region	273

Impacts	Target
Increase in GVA (Gross Value Added) (€)	18,110,857
Increase in employment	513
Increase in businesses	85

Relationship to Lisbon Jobs and Growth agenda

Code	Lisbon category	Fit with Local Plan
05	Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms	Support for local businesses to benefit from public sector procurement opportunities Encouraging new and existing businesses to remain in or locate to the area Support for networks, mentoring schemes and supply chain advice Professional service voucher schemes
06	Assistance to SMEs for environmentally friendly products and processes	Schemes to encourage rural diversification through technology and to encourage diversification in social enterprises. Schemes to promote rural technology development e.g. renewable energy, carbon reduction
08	Other investment in firms	Provision of small grant schemes for hard to reach businesses, key sectors of R&D/innovation, media / creative, tourism, and to close gaps in other grant provision Provision of grants to build capacity in businesses and social enterprises

		Provision of a range of employment premises and enterprise facilities Measures to tackle crime in business areas
09	Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs	Growth of quality employment through development of strategic sites Programmes to foster excellence and innovation in businesses e.g. graduate recruitment schemes, innovation & knowledge transfer projects Grant schemes for priority sector of R&D/innovation
61	Integrated projects for rural and urban regeneration (non-Lisbon)	Improve the appearance of business areas, town centres and gateways to the former coalfields area with an emphasis on attractiveness for business investment and tourism Provision of infrastructure to support a diverse economy
64	Development of specific services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors and firms, and development of systems for anticipating economic changes and future requirements in terms of jobs and skills	Provision of training infrastructure to meet the skills needs of businesses Schemes to encourage diversification in rural economy and by social enterprises Sector specific outreach business support to help develop businesses and improve survival rates Promotion to employers of the benefits of a highly qualified / skilled workforce
66	Implementing active and preventive measures on the labour market	Connection of local people to job growth areas; removal of barriers to employment, through transport and communications improvements
68	Support for self employment and business start up	Schemes to increase entrepreneurial ethos Schemes to encourage under-represented groups to establish businesses Actions to increase the rate of sustainable business creation Business start-up and survival support in sectors: knowledge industries / creative & media, aviation Start up and survival support targeted at social enterprises Community economic development activity to encourage people to engage in the local economy Start up and survival support targeted on community enterprises and resource centres
71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people	Connection of "workless" and long term unemployed people to employment Community economic development activity to encourage people to engage in the local economy

Profiling of ERDF expenditure and outputs

District Area	2008	2009	2010	2011	Totals
Ashfield	0	1,108,701	1,138,364	719,842	2,966,907
Bassetlaw	0	1,072,065	1,100,749	696,056	2,868,870
Bolsover	0	825,485	847,572	535,960	2,209,017
Chesterfield	0	966,980	992,852	627,828	2,587,660
Mansfield	0	960,231	985,923	623,446	2,569,600
Totals	0	4,933,462	5,065,460	3,203,132	13,202,054

Prospective sources of match funding:

Local Authority capital programmes and revenue support
 LEGI (Bolsover, Mansfield, Ashfield) to 2010
 Working Neighbourhood Fund (Mansfield, Chesterfield, Bolsover)
 Bassetlaw Enterprise Board (Bassetlaw)
 Planning obligations
 Emda's Single Pot / Alliance SSP to 2009
 Local Transport Plans (for infrastructure-type and public realm projects)
 Coalfields Regeneration Trust
 Landfill Tax grant schemes
 Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative
 Market Towns Initiative

Application processes

The former coalfields local plan will operate through a two-stage selection process, as follows.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Completion of EoI as provided by emda. Each EoI will initially be reviewed for eligibility before proceeding to full assessment using the EoI scoring framework as devised by emda.

The eligibility check will review:

- Whether the proposal is located in or serving the eligible PA2 area
- Whether the organisation making the application is eligible to bid for ERDF
- Whether the proposal has identified potential match funding sources
- Whether the activity is consistent with the PA2 former coalfields local plan

EoI assessment will take place by the local gateway. Assessment will be made by local gateway based only on what is written in the EoI. Local assessors will be approved by the local partnership, experienced in project assessment and selection, and without conflict of interest relating to the project(s) under assessment. The assessed projects will be placed in ranked order against the indicative allocations for each district area. Where a project spans several district areas, its costs will be apportioned between the district areas on a reasonable basis, in consultation with the applicant. The selection process will take account of the minimum quality threshold or 42 points applied to all projects under the ERDF programme, as stipulated by emda

and approved by the Regional Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), and the availability of funding in each district area according to the indicative allocations.

The final ranked list of projects, for each district area, will then be submitted for endorsement, first by the partnership working group, which includes representatives from LSPs and subsequently, by a co-opted management group made up of representatives of the two strategic partnership organisations, the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAAs.

After formal endorsement, the list of endorsed projects will be submitted to emda for further development.

Stage 2 – Full application

The full application will be requested from selected projects by the former coalfields PA2 partnership. Full applications will be checked to ensure they are consistent with the submitted EoI before being passed on to emda. The full application will then be assessed by full technical appraisal by the emda Programme Secretariat.

Formal approval and contracts will be issued by emda. Ongoing responsibility for monitoring and contract compliance will also rest with emda. The former coalfields group will retain an interest in performance by individual projects in the context of the overall management of the indicative allocations within the former coalfields PA2 area.

Selection processes

Open bidding will form the principal route to funding through the former coalfields local plan. Commissioning will only come into play if open bidding calls do not result in full achievement of the range of activity, in which case a limited number of tenders may be sought from relevant organisations. If this action is necessary, a full justification for the identification of a select list of tenderers will be put to the former coalfields executive group for approval, in the interests of fairness and transparency.

The maximum intervention rate for funding from within the former coalfields PA2 allocations will be 62.72%.

In order to be eligible for assistance through the East Midlands 2007-13 ERDF Programme, all projects must meet the Programme's core eligibility criteria as agreed by the PMC.

In addition, PA2 activity within the former coalfields district areas will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Disadvantage: priority will be given to projects located or serving communities from within the most deprived areas as measured either by their LEGI status (for Ashfield, Bolsover and Mansfield) or against the Index of Multiple Deprivation (for Bassetlaw and Chesterfield)
- Fit with local plan actions and rationale
- Duplication: assessment will have regard to the 20% regionally managed programme; activities which are eligible for support under that programme will not be supported through the former coalfields local plan

Governance arrangements

Day-to-day management will be undertaken by the former coalfields PA2 officer group (one officer from each of the five district and two county councils) with the addition of a nominated officer from each of the PA2 area LSPs.

This group will oversee the day to day logistics of combined programme management. It will operate in an advisory capacity reporting to a separate executive group.

The overall authority relating to the former coalfields PA2 will be the executive group, made up of up to 4 members co-opted from each of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAAs. This group will have delegated authority collectively to approve the local plan, agree the priorities for calls for activity and endorse projects. The executive group will be supported by the former coalfields PA2 officer group as set out above.

The co-optees will reflect the designated areas involved and should have democratic legitimacy. Decisions will be made collectively and on a consensual basis so that the five district area allocations can be managed collaboratively.

This structure has been developed to make the most of existing partnership arrangements. As the LSPs and LAAs are all partnership bodies, although led by local government, this gives scope for a range of views to be represented in decision-making. Also, the reporting arrangements including reporting back from the co-opted group to the LAA Strategic Boards every year, which will ensure that partnership organisations have opportunities to influence the direction of travel.

Governance Details

Name of Lead Body/Partnership	Members of Lead Body/Partnership
North Nottinghamshire / North Derbyshire PA2 Group	What groups and local agencies are involved (inc. the SSP)?
Contact Details	District Councils (5): Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield and Mansfield
Address C/o Nottinghamshire County Council Economic Regeneration County Hall West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 7QP	Relevant County Councils (2): Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Relevant LSPs (5). The LSPs are district-level partnership bodies with a wide range of interests represented. The Alliance SSP has been represented and consulted during the plan preparation. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire LAA partnerships.
Email kay.massingham@nottscc.gov.uk	Representing which District(s)
Telephone Number 0115 977 2212	Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Mansfield
Fax 0115 977 3859	
Consultation arrangements for project recommendations	

What is the process for projects being recommended by the Lead Body/Partnership?
Who is consulted and why?

Applications will be received in response to publicised calls for activity. A selection panel comprised of representatives of five district councils, two county councils and 5 local strategic partnerships (which comprise representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors) will review Eols against the stated selection criteria and produce a ranked list of projects for each district area.

Endorsement will be through a co-opted joint group made up of up to four representatives nominated by each of the LAA Strategic Partnership Boards for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Cross Cutting Themes

Equalities:

The former coalfields area has marked pockets of deprivation and some of the lowest labour participation rates in the East Midlands. Equality is therefore a concern. Government Departments such as DWP, on worklessness, and Communities and Local Government, on neighbourhood level regeneration, are the instigators of the key equality initiatives. The former coalfields PA2 programme can also take advantage of the LEGI (Local Enterprise Growth Initiative) programme, which is supporting projects to tackle worklessness and the lack of an enterprise culture in targeted localities within three of the five former coalfields PA2 district areas (Ashfield, Bolsover and Mansfield).

Addressing the economic disadvantage of the former coalfields area relies partly on tackling discrimination and raising aspirations among all sectors of the community. The actions proposed under 2c to connect unemployed and workless people with employment opportunities will address these concerns.

Applicants will be required to have considered Equality and Diversity issues when designing the project and what any potential impacts in reaching the targeted beneficiaries. Each application should detail the main issues related to the identified targeted groups, highlighting how the project is designed to be as inclusive as possible and how any negative impact on project's outcomes and the beneficiaries are mitigated.

Sustainability:

Sustainable development is focused on providing a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. This is achieved through considering and balancing the long-term effects of social, economic and environmental issues and impacts. (Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005)

The former coalfields area can already demonstrate a significant commitment to sustainability in its environmental sense as a consequence of dealing with its large inheritance of brownfield - and sometimes contaminated - industrial sites. Such projects will continue to run during the ERDF operating period e.g. development of Markham Vale site.

It is expected that projects supported under the sites and premises priorities of the plan will take full account of environmental impact, in terms of energy-conservation, ventilation systems, construction methods, resource efficiency and landscaping.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate in a clear and objective manner how the project will impact upon the environment, including both short and long term impacts. Indicate how during the development of the project plan, potential positive and negative impacts are identified and actions are developed to ensure that the negative impacts are minimised or avoided. There may also be opportunities for a project to impact positively on the environment.

Capital projects will provide any supporting information to identify the likely impacts on the environment arising from both the construction phase and long term operation of the scheme/building. For each phase, applicants should also identify what actions will be taken to ensure impacts are minimised, mitigated or avoided, together with actions that are likely to result in a net improvement in the environment, and where relevant, detail what BREEAM rating the proposed development is aiming to obtain.

If appropriate, applicants could also outline spatial policy areas which support this project. This could relate to regional guidance such as Regional Planning Guidance, the Regional Transport Strategy, the Regional Housing Strategy, or Sub-regional Strategies, as well as relevance to the Local Plan/Local Development Framework.

Contact Details for the management of ERDF within the former coalfields eligible PA2 areas

Sue Douglas, Derbyshire County Council
Regeneration Team
Chief Executive's Office
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
DE4 3AG
Tel 01629 585000 ext 7244
Email sue.douglas@derbyshire.gov.uk

Kay Massingham, Nottinghamshire County Council
Economic Regeneration
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP
Tel 0115 977 2212
Email kay.massingham@nottscc.gov.uk