

**SAUL (Sustainable & Accessible Urban
Landscapes)**

SAUL - Press Release



20 November 2006

London, United Kingdom

SAUL secures additional ERDF funding

The SAUL Partnership, led by Groundwork London, has secured an additional €750,000 of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) towards a €1.5 Million extension to its existing project. This is the SAUL Partnership's response to the 8th and final Call for applications under Interreg IIIB for North West Europe.

This was a limited call to existing IIIB partnerships for extensions, and to prepare for the next Programme period under new 'Objective 3' (European territorial co-operation). The emphasis is on adding value to current or recent work, and transition to the 2007-13 period. The project will be focusing on the relevance of 'New Urban Landscapes' to the key European priorities of regional competitiveness, economic viability and social cohesion in city regions. The total value of the SAUL projects now stand at Euro 23.4 million, with Euro 10.7 million funded from ERDF.

In London, the extension project will be the next stage of the London Strategic Parks Project, with the Wandle Valley spatial strategy as the pilot. This will be developed with Greater London Authority (one of the SAUL Partners), Groundwork Merton and the Wandle Forum. Key aims will be to develop a shared spatial vision, engage business communities in an inclusive partnership, strengthen community participation in the process, and implement pilot demonstration projects such as habitat improvements or flood control works.

The SAUL extension provides an important transition of policy aims and valuable continuity for the Partnership as a whole while the new European programmes for 2007-13 are coming on stream. The Partnership expects to submit an application to the new Objective 3 funding in Spring 2007.

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Notes to editors

1. The SAUL project was launched in June 2003, since when six Metropolitan regions in North West Europe have worked together to address four key areas:
 - The vital role of socially inclusive spaces in the sustainable development of metropolitan regions
 - Regional identity
 - Planning through partnerships
 - The transnational value of the 'learning region' approach
2. The SAUL project is funded by INTERREG IIIB North West Europe programme, a European Regional Development initiative that is focused on transnational cooperation to address territorial development issues.
3. The SAUL term 'New Urban Landscapes' is refers to the changing patterns of land use that result from growing forces of economic globalisation and rapid social change – including, for example, the emergence of brownfield land, urban sprawl, new economic, social and transport hubs and the changing nature of surrounding areas of agriculture and forestry that no longer sustain their former economies.

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