



**CORNWALL &
ISLES OF SCILLY**
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership held in the Online - Virtual Meeting on Wednesday 31 March 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:- Mark Duddridge (Chair)
Mark Goodwin (Vice-Chair)

John Acornley, Fran Grottick, Edwina Hannaford CC, Steve Jermy, Emmie Kell, Louis Mathers, Poppy Naylor, Lisa Oakes, Clare Parnell, Gordon Seabright, Linda Taylor CC and David Walrond

Also in attendance:- Glenn Caplin-Grey, Nathan Cudmore, David Krohn, Carol Bransgrove, Geraldine Baker and Emma Coad

Apologies for absence:- Directors: Frances Brennan, Tim Dwelly CC
Officers: John Curnow, Phil Mason and Paul Masters

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda No. 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Frances Brennan, Tim Dwelly CC, John Curnow, Paul Masters and Phil Mason.

Edwina Hannaford CC gave apologies for early departure.

The Chair, on behalf of the LEP Board, expressed his thanks and appreciation to Emmie Kell for her contribution to the LEP Board.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

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The following declaration of interest was expressed:

Emmie Kell advised that she had an interest in any item relating to wAVE Project.

LEP BOARD (20 NOVEMBER 2020)

(Agenda No. 3)

Minutes

(Agenda No. 3.1)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2020 were a true and accurate record.

Actions Summary

(Agenda No. 3.2)

Actions confirmed at the meeting held on 20 November 2020, details of which were noted together with a summary of ongoing actions.

The Chair advised that the LEP Executive had been working proactively with the Fishing Sector and that an item would be included on the Agenda for the July Board meeting regarding Fishing.

STRATEGIC MATTERS

(Agenda No. 4)

Chair Update

(Agenda No. 4.1)

The Chair provided the Board with a verbal update with reference to the following areas:

1. He provided an update on opening the UK economy and the support that the LEP could offer to businesses;
2. He referred to the emerging sectors and the attention they were attracting nationally and the need to mirror that internationally;
3. He commented that Government was beginning to undertake a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships across the country; the outcome of the review was expected prior to the summer recess;

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4. He provided an update regarding the current position of the LEP in regard to the Governments' Clean Growth agenda, Lithium supply chain, Spaceport, Geothermal, investment in Cornwall, G7 impact, Further Education and communications with the LEP Network.

He thanked the LEP Board Directors and LEP Executive for their work over the last 12 months and in the virtual world.

CEO Report

(Agenda No. 4.2)

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO and Head of LEP Commissioning regarding overall progress on operational activity.

The Head of LEP Commissioning highlighted the main points in this report with specific reference to Governance, Risk, Policy Updates and the Performance summary.

In the ensuing discussion the LEP Board Directors and Officers referred to the following areas:-

1. The success of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth Hub which had seen a significant ramp up of Growth Hub interventions, both in terms of engagement with business and activities undertaken. The Chair expressed his thanks to both the Head of LEP Commissioning and Louis Mathers for their work with the Growth Hub;
2. The outcome of the LEP Review would be announced by Government prior to the summer recess; it was unknown how the review would impact CloS. Board Directors were urged to have their say on the Review via the LEP Network.

Arising from the above, the Board noted the contents of the report and the overall progress on operational activity.

Creative Industries Update

(Agenda No. 4.3)

The Board considered a report prepared by the Head of LEP Commissioning and Emmie Kell, Creative Lead which provided an update on activity associated with Creative Industries and highlighted the key issues for the Board.

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Emmie Kell made specific reference during her presentation to the following areas:

1. The devastating impact COVID-19 had had on the Creative Industries sector;
2. The call on government by the Creative Industries Federation for urgent interventions to help mitigate the long-term effects of the pandemic on communities up and down the country;
3. The Creative Radar report had highlighted that Cornwall had a higher density of micro-clusters in almost all creative industries sub-sectors than other large rural regions, supporting Cornwall's claim to be the UK's leading Creative Rural Region in the LEP supported Creative Manifesto 2021-2025;
4. The Cultural Recovery Fund launched by Government in summer 2020 had provided a lifeline for cultural organisations and heritage sites;
5. Museums and Art Galleries were expected to re-open on 17 May, 2021;
6. The results of the second round of the Cultural Recovery Fund were expected shortly;
7. Succession planning relating to the departure of the LEP Cultural Lead; Mandy Berry had volunteered to be interim Chair of the Creative Industries Taskforce in the absence of a LEP Board Director.

In the ensuing discussion the LEP Board Directors and Officers referred to the following areas:

1. Support should be provided to cultural organisations and heritage sites applying to the Cultural Recovery Fund; it was important for the LEP to offer support where possible; the Chair commented that the Monday calls with organisations may be an opportunity to provide support;
2. The Delivery Plan 2021/22 would include industry engagement and activity;
3. Reference was made to the Gigabit roll out and the role of the Creative Industries Taskforce around connectivity issues;
4. The LEP Board was urged to look at the Creative Radar maps.

The LEP Board noted the contents of the report.

Decision: *The LEP Board endorsed the priority areas for the 2021/22 as recommended by the LEP Creative Industries Taskforce and detailed in the report;*

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Action 1: The Head of LEP Commissioning, LEP Chair and LEP CEO to discuss further the Gigabit roll out and connectivity with the creative industries sector.

Nominations Committee Update

(Agenda No. 4.4)

The Board considered a report prepared by the Head of LEP Commissioning which provided an update following the LEP Nominations Committee on 20 January 2021 where the Committee considered the re-appointments of Directors coming to the end of their first 3-year term and also director representations on the various Board and sub-groups of the LEP.

Decision:

- 1. That Frances Brennan's position as Director of the Company be renewed for a further term of up to three years.***
- 2. That Steve Jermy's position as Director of the Company be renewed for a further term of up to three years.***
- 3. That Gordon Seabright's position as Director of the Company be renewed for a further term of up to three years.***
- 4. That David Walrond's position as Director of the Company be renewed for a further term of up to three years.***
- 5. That the Board approves Lisa Oakes as a member of the Company, with such membership to take effect from 27 January 2021.***
- 6. That the Board approves Frances Brennan as a member of the LEP Nominations Committee.***
- 7. That the Board approves John Acornley as a member of the LEP Audit and Assurance Committee.***
- 8. That the Board approves David Walrond as a member of the LEP Investment and Oversight Panel.***

Action 2: the LEP Executive to ensure that above appointments were registered with Companies House.

NOTED THAT:

1. LEP Board Directors abstained from voting on their own relevant appointments:
2. Edwina Hannaford CC left the meeting at the conclusion of the above item.

2021/22 Draft Delivery Plan & Budget

(Agenda No. 4.5)

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The Board considered a report prepared by the Head of LEP Commissioning which sought approval for the draft 2021/22 Delivery Plan and placed it in the context of available budget and priorities for 2021/22 building on the recent Board workshop on 24 February 2021.

The Head of LEP Commissioning made specific reference during his presentation to the following areas:

1. 2021-22 – Priorities – Strategy
2. 2021-22 – Priorities – Delivery
3. 2021-22 – Priorities – Governance
4. A look ahead Roadmap 2021-22
5. Draft 2021-22 Budget

In the ensuing discussion the LEP Board Directors and Officers referred to the following areas:

1. Due to the unique opportunity arising from the G7 summit being held in Cornwall it was suggested that the level of spend to support the G7 programme should be extended to enable engagement with PR agencies outside the county via trusted partners;
2. Reference was made to the opportunities arising from the G7 programme for private investment aligning with the Government's Clean Growth agenda;
3. Confirmation that there was a lot of work being undertaken within working groups to ensure a successful spaceport launch in 2022; Government investment in Newquay airport demonstrated one of the activities being undertaken in this area; it was acknowledged that more could be done to articulate what was happening in this area within the Delivery Plan.

Decision: that the Board approves the draft 2021/22 Delivery Plan at appendix 1 to the report and budget at appendix 2 to the report, taking on board the comments raised in discussion regarding support for an increase in the G7 Programme budget allocation and that Space could be better articulated in the Delivery Plan.

Sustainable Tourism Strategy Update (Agenda No. 4.6)

The Board considered a report prepared by the Head of LEP Commissioning which sought to provide the Board with an update on activity associated with

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the development of a Sustainable Tourism Strategy and also highlighted the key issues for the Board.

Malcolm Bell, Visit Cornwall Chief Executive, attended the meeting and provided the Board with a presentation highlighting the work currently being considered and co-developed by a number of stakeholders and partners, including the CloS LEP partnership.

He made specific reference during his presentation to the following areas:

1. Key messages from the Review
2. Managed Growth
3. Draft Vision for the Visitor Economy in Cornwall
4. Priorities for Action
5. Next Steps

In the ensuing discussion the LEP Board Directors and Officers referred to the following areas:

1. Development of a National Research and Development Centre of Excellence for Sustainable, Competitive and Regenerative Tourism within Cornwall;
2. Development of a compulsory registration scheme for holiday accommodation and camp sites and the scope of this type of scheme;
3. Climate risk for the CloS and sustainable forms of travel;
4. Role of the cultural sector in the engagement of visitors to protect and respect the environment;
5. Work being undertaken by Cornwall Council on sustainable carbon footprint;
6. Role of Exeter University in the tourism area via the Dean of the Business School;
7. Engagement with all sectors and role of Town Meetings to pick up the wider tourism debate;
8. The need to get residents to better understand and support the direction of travel.

The Board noted the strategic direction of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy under development and that the final version would be brought back to the LEP Board.

Decision: The CloS LEP Board delegated the final strategy endorsement to the LEP Chair, Chief Executive and Chair of the LEP Rural Sub-Group.

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Enterprise Zones Board Update

(Agenda No. 4.7)

The Board considered a report prepared by the Head of Investment and Growth which provided an update on activity associated with Cornwall's Enterprise Zones and highlighted the key issues to the Board.

Steve Jermy, Board Director outlined the report highlighting the key points referenced within the report.

Further to the report, the following updates were provided:-

1. Importance of international oil companies which were critical to the FLOW supply chain;
2. Reference to the 'Clean Marine' fund and opportunities for the Fishing Sector.

The Board noted the update on activity associated with Cornwall Enterprise Zones.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

(Agenda No. 5)

The Board agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting for items 5.1 and 5.2 due to the confidential nature of the items.

Investment and Oversight Panel Update

(Agenda No. 5.1)

The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the Head of LEP Commissioning which provided an update on the recent activity within the remit of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership Investment and Oversight Panel.

The Head of LEP Commissioning drew attention to the main points detailed in the report.

The LEP Board noted the contents of the Board.

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Decision:

- 1. The Board endorses the decision of the Investment and Oversight Panel to approve a £1 million grant as set out in the report; and**
- 2. The Board delegates any further funding decisions relating to Getting Building Fund to the Investment and Oversight Panel.**

NOTED THAT Linda Taylor CC and Fran Grottick (IoS Council) abstained from voting on the above decision due to 'Purdah' restrictions.

Any other confidential business

(Agenda No. 5.2)

G7 Activity

The LEP CEO briefly joined the meeting to provide the Board with an update on G7 activity with particular reference to the legacy element arising from G7 Summit, Culture and Creative Programme and Trade, Export opportunities and Communications.

The Whitehall Representative provided an update from the Government's perspective.

Freeports

Steve Jermy, Board Director, provided an update on the Freeports announcement. He confirmed that Plymouth had successfully bid for a Freeport.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm.

[The agenda and reports relating to the items referred to above are attached to the signed copy of the Minutes].