



**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 Council Offices, Chy Trevail, Bodmin, PL31 2FR on Wednesday 24 November 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:- Mark Duddridge (Chair)
Frances Brennan (Vice-Chair)

Fran Grottick, Steve Jermy, Louis Mathers, Oliver Monk CC, Poppy Naylor, Lisa Oakes, Clare Parnell, Linda Taylor CC, Stephen Rushworth CC, Gordon Seabright and David Walrond.

Observers:- Dan James, Lisa Roberts, Emma Stratton and Ann Vandermeulen.

Also in attendance:- Glenn Caplin-Grey, Nathan Cudmore, Phil Mason, Nicola Stinson, Sharon Ashton, Carol Bransgrove, Josie Gough and Emma Coad.

Apologies for absence:- Directors: John Acornley
Officers: Paul Masters, Geraldine Baker and John Curnow.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda No. 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular, Ann Vandermeulen, Emma Stratton, Lisa Roberts and Dan James who would be attending the meeting today as Observers.

The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to Louis Mathers for his excellent and supportive work on the LEP Board. The Board noted that Louis Mathers was stepping down as Director of the Local Enterprise Partnership when his term comes to an end on 29 January 2022.

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Apologies for absence had been received from John Acornley, John Curnow, Paul Masters and Geraldine Baker.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

The following declaration of interest was expressed:

Item No. 4.5 – Nominations Committee – Clare Parnell had an interest in this item due to her nomination for re-appointment as Director of the Company for a further term of up to three years. In relation to the conflict relating to her nomination she advised that she would leave the room during that element of the meeting.

LEP BOARD (29 SEPTEMBER 2021)

(Agenda No. 3)

Minutes

(Agenda No. 3.1)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021 were a true and accurate record.

Matters arising from the Minutes

The Chair thanked the Council for the Isles of Scilly for hosting the meeting on 29 September 2021 and extended his thanks to Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England for attending the meeting.

The Whitehall representative confirmed that an action plan was being drawn up to look at funding opportunities for the IoS as referenced on bullet point 4, page 8 of the minutes.

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:

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1. IoS ferry infrastructure - he confirmed that the Isles of Scilly had been successful in a bid for £48.4 million for the new IoS ferry infrastructure;
2. LEP Review – he referred to the extensive work undertaken by all parties in preparation for the LEP Review. An announcement on the outcome of the LEP Review by Government was still awaited;
3. Autumn Statement – a further reassurance had been provided on Shared Prosperity Fund quantum for CloS and the additional investment to build on the CloS Investment Fund had been welcomed in the Budget/Spending Review;
4. LEP Core Funding 2021-22 – confirmation that the LEP would be receiving the second 6 months of its annual funding allocation for 2021-22;
5. County Deal – he expressed his support to colleagues for a successful bid;
6. Great South West (GSW) – he referenced those MPs providing support for the GSW advising that there was a need to gain broader MP support going forwards and that there was a need to ensure that there was a pipeline of projects aligned around the work of the GSW;
7. British Business Bank (BBB) – he confirmed that BBB had been allocated a south west extension of £200 million for investment funds;
8. Community Renewal Fund (CRF) – he advised that 2 of the 5 projects submitted by Cornwall Council had been selected to a total of £1.1m; whilst these had not yet been contracted they were progressing;
9. Mining and Technology Metals Sector – he referred to the extensive work undertaken in this area, this was an exciting area of work given the level of private sector money becoming available, working with Office for Investment BEIS and DIT mining on a number of potential investments; a detailed follow up would be provided at a later date;
10. Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) – he outlined progress in this area and work being undertaken to look at how it could link clean energy with tech metals, he also referred to the possible implications for the Enterprise Zones;
11. Space - he congratulated those working in communications and acknowledged the excellent work around space, G7 and COP26;
12. City of Culture – he thanked the LEP Executive for work undertaken to date to prepare the bid;
13. He referred to the All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG) event that had taken place on 23 November 2021, advising that during the event there had been discussion regarding the Environmental Land Management scheme transition and the impact the removal of basis farm payments would have on the farming industry and the challenges they could face with the removal of the payment;

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14. Fishing Industry – he referred to the growing engagement with the fishing community and work being undertaken by Board Director, Clare Parnell;
15. Labour Skills and Housing – he commented that every sector was talking about the availability of labour and housing and he referred to the work being undertaken in this area;
16. Visit Cornwall – he commented regarding feedback from the visitor survey advising that further details would be brought back to the LEP Board once the work had progressed.

CEO Report

(Agenda No. 4.2)

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

The LEP CEO highlighted the main points within the Governance, Finance, Risk, Policy and Performance areas of his report. Steve Jermy, Board Director provided an update on the current position regarding Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) and Geothermal and the structures and funding arrangements.

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

1. Reference was made to the Celtic Sea APPG meeting held in Westminster and confirmation that a ministerial submission had been made to Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and copied to George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Lord Grimstone regarding the issues with the potential for a 2 year delay on the roll out of clean energy;
2. Reference was made to both the FLOW supply chain and customer chain;
3. Reference was made to the £6m FLOW accelerator project;
4. The huge interest from other parts of the country in the work being undertaken in Cornwall regarding geothermal, mining, FLOW and housing; thanks were expressed to the LEP Executive and Board Directors for the work regarding lithium mining;
5. Communications regarding lithium mining need to be progressed;
6. There was a need to maintain pressure on Government to ensure investment in lithium production in the county;

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7. Reference was made to investment in the lithium supply chain being essential and joined up working on tech metals;
8. Reference was made to the role of the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) and the hard work that is undertaken behind the scenes by the team;
9. It was highlighted that the ESB included representatives from across all industries; reference was made to current and future labour force needs and skills shortages to build supply chains;
10. It was commented that gaps between EU funding and SPF would risk current and future labour force skills;
11. Concerns regarding DWP national approach to contracting not recognising CloS needs;
12. The Whitehall representative provided an update on the work being undertaken on the SPF; she commented that she was aware of the challenges and that work was being undertaken to bring both the people and place strands under the same process; she commented that the Prime Minister was involved in the steer and ensuring that it was one programme;
13. The Whitehall representative provided an update on the LEP Review and commented regarding the options being explored advising that there were a number possible outcomes on the table. She expressed apologies for the time taken to come to a conclusion on the LEP Review and thanked everyone for the support and work undertaken by the LEP. She commented that CloS was seen as a place where things happen and the work gets done;
14. The Whitehall representative advised that details on Levelling Up were expected to be announced before Christmas and would hopefully provide a clear direction of travel;
15. The Chair advised that even during these uncertain times the LEP would continue to undertake the day job;
16. In regard to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), it was not considered appropriate to focus on reviewing the content of the LIS at the current time, focus should be on the mechanisms for delivery of the LIS. The next large piece of work would be the creation of an Investment Strategy once the SPF was in place;
17. In regard to the development of a Tourism Strategy it was confirmed that there was work being undertaken to develop the strategy locally and that there was work being undertaken nationally within tourism. A report would be prepared for a future meeting of the LEP Board to provide an update;
18. In regard to Skills, reference was made to the implications this would have on housing need; the availability of accurate job vacancy figures;

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- undertaking work around the supply chain for future and maintaining the talent pool; making sure the labour market were adequately housed;
19. The Portfolio Holder for Housing provided an update on the Cornwall Council position regarding the housing situation and outlined the work being undertaken to provide temporary accommodation, the number of planning consents granted but not built out and recognising that Cornwall Council could not solve the housing crisis alone.

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

Action 1: A report on the tourism strategy be brought back to a future meeting of the LEP Board.

City of Culture Update

(Agenda No. 4.3)

The LEP CEO provided an update on Cornwall's UK City of Culture 2025 Bid with particular reference to the following areas:

1. He expressed thanks to the LEP Board for the engagement with Arts Council England at the last Board meeting;
2. He commented that the bid was a team CloS effort;
3. He referred to a national workshop in Coventry he had attended with all of the longlisted regions; this had highlighted that the bids were very competitive;
4. He advised that since the last LEP Board meeting a communication strategy had been developed by the communications team;
5. He outlined a summary timetable, advising that the final summary bid was due by February 2022 and final announcement due in May 2022;
6. Ahead of the February deadline, Hall for Cornwall had been commissioned to prepare creative programming, with support from the sector and the LEP communications team are managing the campaign element with external support, similar to G7;
7. He referred to the results of a YouGov poll which had indicated that 14% of those surveyed thought Cornwall should be the UK City of Culture 2025; there appeared to be a large amount of national support for the Cornwall 2025 bid;
8. This was an environmental led bid, transitioning to a low carbon economy; both Exeter University and Local Nature Partnership were involved in the discussions;

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9. He provided details of the Cultural Programme including reference to Eden, The Tate, and Falmouth University and that the programme framework would include 3 National Stand Still moments, underneath which there would be 25 moments programmed throughout the year showing best of place; below which a mass participation programme to reach 200k engagements in culture;
10. He referred to tourism spend and advised that the programme of events would not focus on the summer months and would instead take place in the shoulder and winter months;
11. He commented that it would not just be cultural it would be a sectoral development programme; technology and innovation would feature linking creativity and digital and skills requirements;
12. He commented that following the workshop in Coventry there was a need for communications to articulate why the bid was needed as much as it was wanted in the county;
13. Leveraging the value of the capital investments in Cornwall, accelerating what was already being done;
14. He provided data on the direct impact of winning the bid for CloS and the longer term benefits;
15. Images were shown to the Board of how Cornwall could be 'dressed' if the bid was successful;
16. He outlined plans to hold a Westminster reception at Trafalgar studios and sponsor information, details of which would be announced in the next couple of months.

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

1. It was commented that the bid provided a way of getting people to engage through culture;
2. Reference was made to the potential for Cornwall to bid for an element of the next Tour of Britain in 2025 and Tour de France 2026 following the success of the Tour of Britain 2021;
3. It was commented that sport and outside culture formed part of the bid;
4. Reference was made to the economic impact of the Tour of Britain had for the county;
5. It was commented that the IoS would welcome visits if the bid was shortlisted;
6. Cornwall Council Leader commented that the Tour of Britain had been an amazing success for the county and that there was support for a bid for a future event.

Getting Building Fund Update

(Agenda No. 4.4)

The LEP CEO provided an update on the Getting Building Fund with particular reference to the following areas:

1. Details of the programme allocations;
2. Programme description and programme spend window;
3. Details of challenges around the spend profile;
4. Updates were provided on the status of the following programmes:
 - a. Aviation Centre
 - b. Launch Operation Facility
 - c. Hall for Cornwall
 - d. Truro and Penwith College STEM
 - e. Social Housing Retrofit Accelerator project
 - f. Saputo Dairy UK
 - g. Lithium Recovery Plant

Nominations Committee Update

(Agenda No. 4.5)

Clare Parnell left the meeting for this item due to her conflict of interest.

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided an update following the LEP Nominations Committee meetings on 10 September and 15 October where the Committee considered succession planning arrangements and the reappointment of Directors coming to the end of their first 3-year term on the LEP Board.

The LEP CEO drew attention to the main points detailed in the report.

Decision: the LEP Board approved the re-appointment of Clare Parnell as Director of the Company for a further term of up to three years.

Enterprise Zones Board Update

(Agenda No. 4.6)

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

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Steve Jermy, Board Director outlined the report and highlighted the key points referenced within the report and details of two upcoming workshops.

The Board noted the update on activity associated with the 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, 5.2 and 5.3 due to the confidential nature of the items.

NOTED THAT Ann Vandermeulen, Lisa Roberts, Emma Stratton and Dan James left the meeting for the following items.

Audit and Assurance Committee Update

(Agenda No. 5.1)

The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided the Board with the 2020/21 Annual Report and Financial Statements, together with the Audit Discussion Memorandum for the Board's consideration and approval.

The LEP CEO drew attention to the main points detailed in the report.

Decision: the LEP Board approved the CloS LEP Company Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 and that the LEP Chair be asked to sign on behalf of the LEP Board.

Investment & Oversight Panel Update

(Agenda No. 5.2)

The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the LEP CEO 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 LEP CEO drew attention to the main points detailed in the report.

The LEP Board noted contents of the report.

Nominations Committee Update

(Agenda No. 5.3)

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The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided an update on the co-opting arrangements following the LEP Nominations Committee meetings on 10 September and 15 October and sought approval to appoint four individuals onto the LEP Board as Co-opted Directors and Members of the Company for a fixed term of one year.

The LEP CEO drew attention to the main points detailed in the report.

Decision:

- 1. The LEP Board approves Professor Lisa Roberts as a Co-opted Director and Member of the Company for a fixed term of one year, with such appointment to take effect immediately, with the relevant updates to the Company's statutory registers and Companies House filings to be made following the conclusion of this meeting;**
- 2. The LEP Board approves Dan James as a Co-opted Director and Member of the Company for a fixed term of one year, with such appointment to take effect immediately, with the relevant updates to the Company's statutory registers and Companies House filings to be made following the conclusion of this meeting;**
- 3. The LEP Board approves Emma Stratton as a Co-opted Director and Member of the Company for a fixed term of one year, with such appointment to take effect immediately, with the relevant updates to the Company's statutory registers and Companies House filings to be made following the conclusion of this meeting;**
- 4. The LEP Board approves Ann Vandermeulen as a Co-opted Director and Member of the Company for a fixed term of one year, with such appointment to take effect immediately, with the relevant updates to the Company's statutory registers and Companies House filings to be made following the conclusion of this meeting.**

Any other confidential business

(Agenda No. 5.4)

UK City of Culture Bid

The LEP CEO provided an update on the UK City of Culture Bid with reference to event and sponsorship arrangements.

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The meeting ended at 12.21 pm.

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