



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

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MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership held in the FibreHub, Trevenson Lane, Pool, Redruth, TR15 3GF on Wednesday 30 November 2022 commencing at 10.00 am.

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

Clare Parnell, John Acornley, Fran Grottick, Emma Hunt, Dan James, Steve Jermy, Martin Siegert, Gordon Seabright, Emma Stratton, Linda Taylor CC, Louis Gardner CC and David Walrond.

Also in attendance:- Glenn Caplin-Grey, Nathan Cudmore, Carol Bransgrove, Geraldine Baker, Josie Gough, Nicola Stinson and Debbie Osborne.

Apologies for absence:- Directors: Lisa Oakes, Oliver Monk CC, Poppy Naylor, and Ann Vandermeulen.
Officers: Phil Mason

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda No. 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular Martin Siegert who has joined the LEP Board as a Co-opted Director.

Apologies for absence had been received from Phil Mason, Lisa Oakes, Oliver Monk CC, Poppy Naylor, and Ann Vandermeulen.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

LEP BOARD (28 SEPTEMBER 2022)

(Agenda No. 3)

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Minutes

(Agenda No. 3.1)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022 were a true and accurate record.

Action Sheet

(Agenda No. 3.2)

The LEP Board noted the summary of completed actions confirmed at the meeting held on 28 September 2022, together with a summary of ongoing actions.

The LEP Board was informed that Action 1 was currently ongoing but an update was to be given as part of today's CEO report.

STRATEGIC MATTERS

(Agenda No. 4)

Chair's Update

(Agenda No. 4.1)

The LEP Board was provided with a verbal update on the following areas:

1. The Chair provided an update on his attendance at an Inclusive Growth Conference in London arranged by the Centre for Progressive Policy. Discussions on the impact on economy, recession and recovery, how its changing across the country and how Devolution is being supported and how effective it can be.
2. The Chair advised the Board that he, along with the LEP's Technology Metal Adviser, will be attending the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board on 9 December to give a presentation on the opportunities for Cornwall's Critical Minerals.
3. The Chair reiterated to the Board that the focus for the LEP has to be on unlocking opportunities and monies for key initiatives such as FLOW, critical minerals and their associated supply chains, infrastructure requirements and skills. Working to ensure capability to deliver and continuation of these initiatives once a devolution deal has been agreed, working formally with those sectors.
4. The Chair provided an update on the current situation regarding the Great South West (GSW). The first GSW Partnership Board will take place on 2 December and the official launch will be held in London on 10 January 2023. The Leader of Cornwall Council and the LEP Chair will be represented on the Partnership Board. There will be sub boards underneath the main Partnership Board. The GSW is not a replacement for LEPs but in addition to and will be aligned with the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). Reference was made to the inclusion of the wider labour

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market along with the skills agenda. The Chair advised that this, along with social mobility, has been embedded into discussions.

5. Reference was made to what the current position was on EU funding replacement and whether we are on track to receive the same amount as before or should there be further lobbying? The Leader of Cornwall Council reminded the Board that Cornwall has received the second largest allocation of £132m and with the additional monies of other programmes is comfortable that we are getting adequate funding. The LEP Chair asked the LEP CEO to provide to the Board a detailed summary of the current position on funding to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.
6. The Chair asked the Leader of the Council to provide an update on the Devolution Deal. An debate was held at Cornwall Council's Full Council meeting on 29 November and an announcement is anticipated shortly. The consultation process will start on 9 December.

It was noted that Dan James joined the meeting and Louis Gardner CC left the meeting at this point.

Action 1: LEP CEO to provide a detailed summary of the current position on funding to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

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 the report.

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

1. The LEP CEO made reference to the first round of SPF:
 - The first and second meetings of the CloS Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) along with the first meeting of the CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel (PAP) have been held.
 - The Good Growth Team received over 600 Expressions of Interests, with 100 applications received. The EPB have so far approved £18m worth of projects. Expecting a lot more applications by the next review point of 2 December.
 - Still awaiting sign off of the Investment Plan by Government which is imminent after which contracting will start.

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- The application form is to be reviewed following comments from the PAP to make it more user friendly.
 - Robin Teverson has been appointed as Vice Chair of the PAP.
 - A question was asked about the geographical spread. The LEP CEO responded to say that Community Facility Funding has been prioritised for North and South East Cornwall but there is more work to do. A diagram that outlines the geographical spread is available and will be shared with Board members.
 - The Good Growth Team are also working on a Communications Strategy. The Board Director lead for Employment and Skills advised that she would be happy to help with input into that strategy and expressed thanks to David Rodda for the assistance he provided for the community events.
 - The LEP Chair advised the Board that he has seen a lot of interest from a wide variety of companies.
2. Reference was made to the practical/organisational implications of future LEP functions once a devolution deal agreement has been reached along with Government also requiring LEP functions to change more to supporting sector development. LEP governance structures are being reviewed to allow that to happen.
 3. Reference was made to major news of 2 LEP Investments. Goonhilly Earth Station Ltd will be providing communications support for NASA's Artemis 1 Mission, which launched on 29 August 2022 and a new milestone for UK Space as Virgin Orbit's "Cosmic Girl" launch carrier aircraft touched down at Spaceport Cornwall, with the launch still on track for mid December.
 4. The LEP CEO asked the Board to consider deployment of the funds recently returned to the LEP by loan repayment. To include consideration of alignment with any County Deal and Shared Prosperity Fund planning in order to maximise fund deployment and impact. A discussion then followed:
 - The LEP CEO reminded the Board of the following cultural areas/focus agreed by the Board in January:
 - Distinctive cultural offer
 - Digital capabilities
 - Cultural education provision
 - Building on previous investments
 - The Board Director lead for Creative Industries put forward the need to reinforce and re-establish the Creative Industries Taskforce as a formal sector body and give it a status similar to other sectors and align with GSW with a review of membership to include other key players, raise its profile and increase evidence base. Board Directors endorsed the proposals put forward by the Board Director lead for Creative Industries.
 - An offer was put forward for a representative of Eden to join the Creative Industries Sector Body.

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- It was suggested that, outside of the £1m allocation for a culture and creative industries investment programme, the £0.4m returns should be utilised to support other priority sectors, such as Food and Drink/Agrifood or use as match funding for the Rural Prosperity Fund (RPF).
 - LEP CEO proposed that the LEP Executive brings a paper back to the Board in the New Year with a proposal.
5. The Head of Commissioning and Business Engagement provided an update on the Create Growth Programme. The LEP, alongside the West of England Combined Authority, has been successful in its application to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Create Growth programme for £1.25m of funding to CloS and the West of England to support high-growth potential creative industries businesses. As a Create Growth region, CloS businesses are, in addition, to benefit from a new £7 million funding pot to help expand their operations, attract additional investment and create jobs. LEP CEO advised this was the right approach to have a joint bid especially in relation to partnership working across the South West.
 6. The LEP CEO referred to the support that the LEP was giving to Celtic Sea Power on Crown Estate Licences.
 7. The LEP CEO advised the Board that the LEP was working with the University of Exeter on a Centre of Excellence for critical minerals.
 8. LEP CEO advised the Board that once the devolution deal has been announced the LEP Devolution Task and Finish Group will reconvene. The Whitehall Representative advised that an Integration Plan will need to be submitted to Government from Cornwall Council, with LEP sign off.
 9. The Whitehall Representative also confirmed that further announcements on LEP core funding are due next year.

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

Action 2: A copy of the diagram which outlines geographical spread of current SPF applications be shared with the Board.

Action 3: LEP CEO to share with the Board the public information in relation to SPF.

Action 4: LEP CEO to bring a proposal back to the Board in relation to the £1.4m loan repayment.

Nominations Committee

(Agenda No. 4.3)

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided an update following the LEP Nominations Committee meeting on 5 August 2022 where the Committee considered succession planning arrangements and the reappointments of Directors coming to the end of their first 3-year term on the LEP Board.

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The LEP CEO drew attention to the main points within the report namely to consider the report recommendation and approve the reappointment of Poppy Naylor as a Director of the Company for a further term of up to three years.

Decision:

- 1. The Board approved that Poppy Naylor's position as Director of the Company be renewed for a further term of up to three years.**

Enterprise Zones Board Update

(Agenda No. 4.4)

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

The LEP CEO and Steve Jermy, Board Director outlined the report and highlighted the key points referenced within the report, with particular reference to the following:

1. Enterprise Zone sites now at full occupancy.
2. Continuance of a good relationship with Celtic Sea Cluster with bi lateral discussions with energy suppliers.
3. Thanks to be given to the LEP for the support given on the Crown Estate licences.
4. [British Energy Security Strategy](#) now live.
5. Have asked for a Cornwall FLOW commission be included in Devolution Deal ask.
6. Lots of interesting work on drone usage in Aerospace.
7. In regard to the future of the EZ Board, it was felt appropriate to pause until the outcome of SPF and Devolution Deal.
8. Workforce Development. Require 12,000 new jobs in FLOW by 2031, in the process of establishing supply and demand groups.
9. The Board Director lead for Employment and Skills reminded the Board of the work being undertaken by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) on the CloS Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which will have big opportunities for local communities.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

(Agenda No. 5)

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

Audit and Assurance Committee Update

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(Agenda No. 5.1)

The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided the Board with the 2021/22 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 2022 and that the LEP Chair be asked to sign on behalf of the LEP Board.

Any other confidential business

(Agenda No. 5.3)

None.

The meeting ended at 11.50am.