



**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 Space Systems Operations Facility, St Mawgan, Newquay, TR8 4HP on Wednesday 26 July 2023 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:- Emma Hunt, Clare Parnell, Fran Grottick, Steve Jermy, Martin Siegert, Emma Stratton, Linda Taylor CC, Louis Gardner CC, Oliver Monk CC, Lisa Oakes, Ann Vandermeulen, Dan James and David Walrond.

Also in attendance:- Glenn Caplin-Grey, Nathan Cudmore, Carol Bransgrove, Geraldine Baker, Anwen Jones, Joe Saffer, Keith Grossett and Debbie Osborne.

Apologies for absence:- Directors: Poppy Naylor  
Officers: Phil Mason and Nicola Stinson

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

(Agenda No. 1)

In the absence of a Chair and Vice Chair, and as per the Articles, David Walrond (private sector Director) opened the meeting and Chaired until the appointment of a formal Vice Chair.

Apologies for absence had been received from Poppy Naylor, Phil Mason and Nicola Stinson.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Agenda No. 2)

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

(Agenda No. 3)

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Over the past few weeks, the LEP CEO has been having discussions with Directors about the future of the Board and how the Chair position is replaced between now and the expected closure and transfer of LEP functions at the end of the financial year. Because the Government is due to publish guidance soon on plans to integrate LEPs with local authorities as part of its devolution agenda, it was proposed not to appoint an external Chair, which could take some time, but to appoint a Vice Chair internally, in line with the articles.

Louis Gardner CC proposed Board Director, Emma Hunt for Vice Chair, and Clare Parnell, Board Director, seconded the proposal.

Emma Hunt, Board Director, then left the room whilst the Board gave consideration to the election of Vice Chair.

**Decision:**

**The Board unanimously approved the Election of Emma Hunt as Vice Chair of the LEP Board, with that appointment to take place with immediate effect.**

NOTED THAT at the conclusion of the above item, Emma Hunt re-joined the meeting and took over as Chair of the meeting.

**LEP BOARD (29 MARCH 2023)**

(Agenda No. 4)

**Minutes**

(Agenda No. 4.1)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 were a true and accurate record.

**Action Sheet**

(Agenda No. 4.2)

The LEP Board noted the summary of completed actions confirmed at the meeting held on 29 March 2023, together with a summary of ongoing actions, with updates to be given as part of today's agenda.

**STRATEGIC MATTERS**

(Agenda No. 5)

**Tributes to Mark Duddridge LEP Chair**

(Agenda No. 5.1)

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Board Directors shared their reflections on the passing of Mark Duddridge on 16 May 2023.

- How he was a true ambassador for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and completely engaged with the LEP's direction, always strategic and relentless in relation to LEP strategy i.e. investments into Lithium, Goonhilly, Spaceport and FLOW.
- How he was kind, enthusiastic and energetic in driving projects forward.
- How he supported the islands in their challenges along with the history and culture of the islands.
- How he supported industry and was always keen to support SMEs.
- Personal thanks to Mark for his support on behalf of the LEP Executive Team.

### **CEO Report**

(Agenda No. 5.2)

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. In relation to Great South West (GSW)
  - a) The GSW Energy Prospectus has now been published, including a focus on FLOW, critical minerals, and Biomethane. The prospectus is available to download at [www.greatsouthwest.co.uk](http://www.greatsouthwest.co.uk).
  - b) Currently recruiting for a Director to lead the Executive function. Karl Tucker has now been formally appointed as Chair of the GSW Partnership Board. Emma Hunt, Vice Chair will be the LEP representative.
2. In relation to technology metals, there continues to be development opportunities, with the LEP working to support industry partners.
3. In relation to Town Deal, the programme is now moving into delivery phase. Positive to see projects now up and running.
4. In relation to ERDF and ESF both programmes are coming to an end but will be looking at models to rebuild CloS Growth Hub and CloS People Hub once they end. The new CloS Growth Hub model is to be launched soon and the CloS People Hub will follow a similar process at the end of the year.
5. In relation to Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) a number of projects are now contracted. 90 approved projects so far with 15 to 20 more expected over the next couple of weeks.
6. In relation to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Investment Fund (CIOSIF), BBB announced in June that the £21m investment milestone had been reached,

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with £80m of co-investment. South West Investment Fund (SWIF) has been launched, with FSE announced as Fund Manager for the large debt and equity element across the GSW and South West Investment Group (SWIG) securing the micro finance element for deployment.

7. In relation to the Risk Register, the Board were advised that a revised version was taken to the LEP Audit and Assurance Committee on 4 July. The main red risk is the LEP transition. LEPs were expecting an announcement on LEP integration before summer recess and although not made yet, is not anticipated to impact on the current transition plans. The LEP Executive Team have ensured all information in relation to assets/liabilities is in place and have responded to Government questionnaires, with local focus remaining on the shape and nature of the business voice requirement post LEP integration. The CLGU Area Lead for Cornwall, Isles of Scilly and Dorset informed the Board that the statement is still expected shortly and updated the Board on devolution discussions in relation to timeframes for the level 2 deal.
8. Louis Gardner CC advised the Board that there are a number of decisions from Government still awaited, in particular Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 3, with indication that Round 3 may operate differently, but Cornwall Council continues to work on LUF2 and Shared Prosperity Fund rolling out at pace now.
9. Linda Taylor CC advised that a proposal on Level II devolution will be taken to an extraordinary Cabinet in September where the detail will be discussed.
10. Clare Parnell, Board Director asked for more support for the agricultural sector to ensure access to available business support mechanisms.
11. Emma Hunt, Vice Chair asked if there will be any issues with contracting and project delivery given the March 2025 deadline for SPF. Louis Gardner CC advised that there would be some issues with capital build projects but at the moment no indication of what comes next post March 2025 and won't know until after next year's General Election. Linda Taylor CC confirmed that discussions with ministers are ongoing. Board Directors asked whether a LEP letter to government to request that the deadline be extended to help delivery would be beneficial.
12. Emma Stratton, Board Director asked for clarity over any future funding given the political uncertainty. There is a need for a longer-term plan. Ann Vandermeulen, Board Director advised the Board that business confidence is going down and work needs to be done faster to get funding out the door. Louis Gardner CC advised that Cornwall Council are receiving more investment than any other local authority in the country with a significant proportion of that being used to support businesses. LEP CEO advised that the CC team are ensuring that SPF contracts are a number one priority.

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

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**Action 1: With the support from the Board, the LEP CEO to draft a letter to Government in relation to SPF timescales and spend extension.**

### **Clean Energy - Biomethane**

(Agenda No. 5.3)

Introductions were made to Caroline Carroll (LEP Clean Energy Advisor) and Penny Atkins, Chief Executive of International Fugitive Emissions Abatement Association (IFEAA).

International Fugitive Emissions Abatement Association (IFEAA) were commissioned to undertake a study on behalf of the CloS LEP and industry partners in order to understand potential opportunities for the region from recovery and use of fugitive methane emissions. A report to disseminate study findings for an audience including local and national policy makers and industry stakeholders has now been drafted.

The Board were presented with a summary of their draft findings:

The estimated fugitive methane emissions from cattle slurry lagoons (primarily) and wastewater (much less) in CloS:

- Are equivalent to 33% of CloS annual mains natural gas consumption.
- Have the same energy as 73 million litres of diesel and is equal to the energy consumed by 91,302 cars in a year.
- Could generate 12% of CloS electricity consumption or provide grid services equivalent to 280 'Wave Hub' batteries.
- Are equivalent to 1.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is more than the emissions derived from the energy consumption within CloS residential buildings, commercial and institutional facilities combined.
- Has a potential gross income of between £66 million and £146 million per year.

Key enablers for the uptake of methane capture and use technology are:

- Growing confidence in the business case, through improved evidence on methane emissions levels and capture technology, and supporting offtake arrangements for the gas and heat.
- Supporting understanding of the technology for potential users including operational, regulatory and safety issues.
- Support for initial investment through favourable loans, startup grants, or third-party investment (e.g. landlord or biomethane consumer).
- Skills training and internet connectivity to support technology implementation.
- Infrastructure – gas grid injection and electricity network capacity for upgrade and export

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- Land use – securing planning permission for new compliant lagoons, ready for covers.

In the ensuing discussion comments were made as follows:

1. LEP CEO advised the Board that this report was commissioned by the LEP to look at where low carbon can meet agriculture and will be expanding on the barriers and challenges and translating into further detail.
2. Linda Taylor CC informed the Board that Cornwall Council are aware of benefits to farm estates so is keen that further conversations between IFEAA and Martyn Alvey, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change take place.
3. Steve Jermy, Board Director highlighted that although methane is a plausible alternative to petrol and diesel, would be cautious on using for replacing electricity.
4. Martin Siegert, Board Director said ultimately, we need to get to net zero so solutions on reducing meat and dairy consumption need to be explored.
5. Emma Stratton, Board Director advised there is a long-term trend that the younger demographic is consuming less meat and dairy.
6. Fran Grottick, Board Director said could be an exciting opportunity but would be limited on Scilly by the small number of cows.
7. Clare Parnell, Board Director said it is important to keep the technology development in the region. It gives agricultural businesses another income stream, allows better environmental management and allows food production to have a lower carbon footprint. A key issue is planning.
8. David Walrond, Board Director suggested that an indication of infrastructure investment requirements would be beneficial.

### **Clean Energy – Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW)** (Agenda No. 5.4)

The Board considered a report and presentation prepared by the Board Director Lead which provided an update on Clean Energy – Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW).

Steve Jermy presented and highlighted the key points, with particular reference to the following:

- Flow Sector Context including the pipeline to 2030.
- Target of producing 4.0GW in the Celtic Sea by 2035.
- Focus on securing investment for the sector.
- Role of different Government Departments.
- Investigate the possibility of having turbines built in Cornwall instead of abroad.
- Coordinated Policy Planning Action using Cornwall FLOW Commission as part of the Devolution Deal.
- Project Boscawen: LEP funding received to produce a feasibility study for a Cornwall FLOW Offshore Operations Command and Control Centre.

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- Missing Middle: LEP funding received to undertake a study to understand how to maximise local content in Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind Farms.

In the ensuing discussion comments were made as follows:

1. David Walrond, Board Director commented that, along with the need for an understanding of skills and workforce, accommodation for that workforce also needs to be considered.
2. LEP CEO advised the Board that receiving detail for the Level II deal is imminent. CloS is a good test bed for FLOW and convening the right people together would allow this to move forward.
3. Steve Jermy, Board Director said having a strong local coherent voice is important.
4. The CLGU Area Lead for Cornwall, Isles of Scilly and Dorset suggested that a ministerial visit on the FLOW proposition could be put forward.
5. Emma Stratton, Board Director raised wider net zero imperatives and asked that the inclusion of retrofitting of older properties and industrial buildings be considered.

#### **Any other Business**

(Agenda Item No 5.5)

None.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

(Agenda No. 6)

The Board agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting for items 6.1 and 6.2 due to the confidential nature of the items.

#### **LEP Integration Progress Update**

(Agenda No. 6.1)

The LEP CEO provided an update on the current negotiations on County Deal and LEP Integration under item 5.2, with no further confidential matters discussed.

#### **Culture and Creative Industries**

(Agenda No. 6.2)

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO and Head of Commissioning and Business Engagement on the proposed evolution of the LEP's Creative Industries Taskforce into a new Creative Industries Sector Board and the LEP's approach to the £1m LEP Culture and Creative Industries Investment Programme and highlighted key issues to the Board.

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**Decision:**

- 1. The Board approved the Creative Industries Sector Board Terms of Reference.**
- 2. The Board approved the approach and timing of the £1m Culture and Creative Industries Investment Programme.**

**Any other confidential business**

(Agenda No. 7.1)

The LEP CEO provided an update on legacy LEP investments, with a further update to be provided at a future meeting.

**Action 2: The LEP CEO to provide an update to the Board on legacy LEP investments at the future Board meeting.**

The meeting ended at 1230.