

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership  
29 November 2023



**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 Room With A View, Eden Project, Bodelva, St Austell, PL24 2SG on Wednesday 29 November 2023 commencing at 10.30 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, Dan James and David Walrond.

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

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

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Emma Hunt, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Agenda No. 2)

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

### **LEP BOARD (26 JULY 2023)**

(Agenda No. 3)

#### **Minutes**

(Agenda No. 3.1)

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It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 were a true and accurate record.

Fran Grottick asked that her comment on Page 6 of the minutes be amended to *“Fran Grottick, Board Director said could be an exciting opportunity but would be limited on Scilly by the small number of cows”*

### **Action Sheet**

(Agenda No. 3.2)

The LEP Board noted the summary of completed actions confirmed at the meeting held on 26 July 2023, together with a summary of ongoing actions.

The LEP Board was informed that Action 1 was complete and an update on Action 2 would be given as part of today’s agenda.

### **STRATEGIC MATTERS**

(Agenda No. 4)

#### **Chair’s Introduction**

(Agenda No. 4.1)

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

- **LEP Integration:** On today’s agenda. The LEP Board to be asked to endorse the LEP Integration Plan following endorsement at the Council of the Isles of Scilly Full Council meeting on 16 November and Cornwall Council Cabinet on 28 November. LEP CEO to provide a further update under Agenda Item 4.3.
- **Cornwall Plan:** Attended the Leadership Board on 8 November 2023 where it was agreed to take the Cornwall Plan refresh to the next LEP Board. A further update to be provided under Agenda Item 4.5.
- **Great South West (GSW):** Attended GSW Partnership Board on 3 November. Discussions covering government mid-year review and work of GSW programme boards including, the recent announcement on £7.5m win for the UKRI marine and maritime Launchpad programme, with LEPs forming an element of governance. Ahmed Goga the newly appointed GSW Director joining the Board for Agenda Item 4.4.
- **Sectors:** The Chair highlighted the LEP’s long awaited Culture and Creative Industries Innovation Fund, targeting £1m to drive innovation across the sector in line with City of Culture ambitions, to be launched next week.
- **Autumn Statement:** Devolution Deal now approved by Cornwall Council Cabinet. A letter has been sent to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask to set out any plans that avoid a March 2025

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cliff-edge for investment, whether that's through an SPF extension or any other Levelling Up mechanisms within the funding simplification agenda that prevent a hard stop because of the current Spending Review period.

## **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. Culture and Creative Industries Innovation Fund: £1m LEP funding call targeting the creative industries and aligned with the City of Culture ambition. Will be an open call launched next week. Creative Industries Sector Board (CISB) will advise but final decisions will be made by the LEP Board, potentially at an extraordinary LEP Board in late February 2024. Will be pitched at business end of sector. Will be looking to have Grant Funding Agreements in place for 2 years of delivery by end of March 2024. The Council of the Isles of Scilly CEO offered a IoS representative for CISB membership. LEP Chair and Isles of Scilly CEO to discuss further. LEP CEO advised the Board that a report was being taken to the CloS Economic Prosperity Board (CloS EPB) on 30 November to progress with a final call, so timings need to be right for both the SPF and LEP calls. LEP Chair advised the Board that it was recognised in the Autumn Statement the importance of creative and cultural industries.
2. Clean Energy: Work has progressed since the last Board meeting with Planet A being commissioned to undertake a study on Clay Country energy demand and connections with National Grid. Have established quarterly meetings with UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) who are interested in the work being done across the tech metals, biomethane and FLOW, including Port Development. Steve Jermy, Board Director advised the Board that a piece of work had been commissioned by the LEP to look at a different approach to FLOW and Offshore Wind policy. The 'Missing Middle' document was trailed at a recent House of Lords event and will be published on the LEP and Celtic Sea Power (CSP) websites.
3. Growth Hub Commission: Growth Hub is now being delivered fully by Cornwall Council with most activity being funded from SPF investments. Department for Business and Trade (DBT) are providing additional funding via the LEP, being utilised to continue Beacon, Inclusive Support, Better Business for All (BBFA) and SW Peninsula Growth Hub Cluster activities. Louis Gardner CC, Board Director reminded the Board of the importance of the Growth Hub continuing in its

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current role so will be at risk when SPF funding ends. Will keep making the case with ministers and government about future funding. The Head of LEP Commissioning and Business Engagement confirmed that DBT funding for 2024/25 was included within the Autumn Statement.

4. South West Investment Fund: Initial five year deployment period ends 31 December 2023, with ongoing portfolio company investments and increasing interest in the build-up and deployment of future legacy funds. As a reminder, this programme was match funded with £4m LEP funding.
5. LEP CEO advised the Board that funding for the Isles of Scilly Museum and Cultural Centre was allocated within the Autumn Statement, he highlighted the small amount of LEP funding already allocated to the project this financial year. The Council of the Isles of Scilly CEO expressed his thanks to government, the project can now move into delivery phase.
6. LEP CEO advised the Board the Sector Development activities have been aligned with SPF. The majority of SPF sector programming (£4m) have now been contracted, with LEP providing match funding. Announcements for these sector development bids are imminent.

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

***Action 1: The LEP Executive Team to ensure the 'Missing Middle' report is published on the LEP website.***

### **LEP Integration Plan Endorsement**

(Agenda No. 4.3)

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO regarding a recommendation to approve 'in-principle' the Integration Plan for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, including the proposals for a new Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum, subject to consultation with stakeholders.

Linda Taylor CC, Board Director updated the Board on recent developments:

- Recently met with Claire Coutinho, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and political leaders of the Local Government Association (LGA).
- Had been a witness on Select Committees on heat resilience and transport.
- The Level II Devolution Deal was determined at Cabinet on 28 November. Headlines being the devolution of the adult education budget for 2025/26, investing green skills. £450k capacity funding, commitments for a FLOW commission, housing pipeline development and cultural distinctiveness. Will be a ministerial visit on 1 December to sign the Deal.

The LEP CEO then provided an update to the Board:

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- CloS LEP in a very good position compared to other LEPs with a straightforward integration process. LEP Integration Plan has been considered and endorsed at the Council of the Isles of Scilly Full Council and Cornwall Council Cabinet. Submission of Integration Plan is required by 30 November 2023.
- The proposed geography for the delivery of LEP functions from April 2024 is coterminous with the current LEP geography.
- Business voice model – emerged out of consultation with the private sector – focus on growth sectors and representative organisations. Will need to make sure construction is part of this.
- Waiting for government to confirm in January 2024 details of post LEP funding and guidance for Local Authorities assuming LEP responsibilities. The CLGU Area Lead for Cornwall, Isles of Scilly and Dorset informed the Board that further guidance and clarity on any funding package would be provided but will be a lower amount than current LEP core funding.
- Through the LEP's Audit and Assurance Committee a briefing note is currently being prepared by the LEP's Company Secretary, Foot Anstey, on Directors Liabilities. This will be shared with the Board once received.
- Government guidance will include future strategy formation. A tender is out at the moment for support to develop a new Economic Growth Strategy, to include a rapid review of the LIS evidence base and support further evidence that can guide the Local Plan refresh in a couple of years.
- Links with Pan Regional Partnerships will continue to add value and raise profile on key sectors, this will not replace LEP activity.

In the ensuing discussion comments were made as follows:

- The Council of the Isles of Scilly CEO requested that any consultation includes all businesses on the islands and not just limited to Islands Partnership members.
- Steve Jermy, Board Director expressed his support for the LIS refresh but would encourage economic modelling for some of the outcomes.
- David Walrond, Board Director endorsed the integration plan, highlighting the need for post LEP entities to consider future government spending and fiscal constraints.
- LEP CEO advised the Board that the CloS Economic Forum would probably be a stand-alone entity with the current administration being supportive of that model. The CloS EPB will be reviewing their Terms of Reference which could be an opportunity for the Chair of the CloS Economic Forum to have an observer role on the Board.
- Louis Gardner CC, Board Director highlighted that there will be crossovers with membership but it's all about working together and keeping goodwill when funding and governance schemes change.

***Action 2: LEP Executive to share a copy of the Directors Liability briefing note once received from the LEPs Company Secretary, Foot Anstey.***

***Decision: The LEP Board endorsed the LEP Integration Plan as set out in the report and submission by deadline of 30 November 2023.***

### **GSW Update**

(Agenda No. 4.4)

Introductions were made to Ahmed Goga, GSW Director who provided an update on the Great South West:

- Following his recent appointment, has already visited Cornwall and met with Linda Taylor CC and Steve Double MP along with the LEP Chair.
- Is prioritising work with GSW Board and government colleagues.
- GSW critical to UK economic future and there is a lot of ambition to succeed.
- Working with GSW Board and partners to capitalise opportunities. Lot of ongoing work to showcase GSW on the national stage.

In the ensuing discussion comments were made as follows:

1. LEP CEO asked what GSW will do to level up with profile of Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Ahmed Goga responded to say we have great ambitions and assets here. Linda Taylor CC, Board Director responded to say that we are looking forward to what GSW ambitions will be and how Cornwall fits into those.
2. Louis Gardner CC, Board Director asked how GSW proposes that we are all one voice whilst prioritising different areas. Ahmed Goga responded to say that geography shouldn't be a barrier. We need to embrace broader opportunities for all areas to give confidence and a joined-up approach.
3. Steve Jermy, Board Director is looking forward to including GSW in the Celtic Sea Cluster development.

### **Cornwall Plan Refresh**

(Agenda No. 4.5)

The Board considered a report prepared by the LEP CEO regarding an update on the Cornwall Plan refresh to seek the Board's comments and support on the updated plan.

Introductions were made to Tess Ax, Devolution & Partnerships Manager and Oscar Marsh, Policy and Intelligence Advisor from the Cornwall Council's Strategy Service who provided an overview of the Cornwall Plan Refresh:

- Cornwall Plan played an important part in the Devolution Deal. Since 2020 a lot of work has taken place, but this is the first time it has been completely refreshed.
- Over the summer of 2023 workshops with CloS Leadership Board have been undertaken to look at refreshed outcomes.

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- Agreed now to refresh the plan on an annual basis using a doughnut dashboard.
- CloS Leadership Board have now signed off the refreshed plan with it now being taken to other relevant Boards i.e. CloS LEP and CloS Local Nature Partnership.

In the ensuing discussion comments were made as follows:

1. LEP CEO advised that this is a long term piece of work and has been engaged with the refresh. Has used the LIS priorities whilst also reflecting on wider including of living wage, energy etc. There is a broad enough reflection of economic growth in the refreshed plan.
2. Dan James, Board Director asked about the role of nature as a capital driver as this provides opportunities for capital investment in nature.
3. Clare Parnell, Board Director asked how performance is measured in relation to agriculture. Linda Taylor CC, Board Director advised that Cornwall Council are working with Duchy College on data that can be brought into future refreshes.

***Decision: The LEP Board supported the refreshed Cornwall Plan with updated outcomes and measures.***

#### **Any other Business**

(Agenda Item No 4.6)

The LEP CEO advised the Board that the date for the memorial of Mark Duddridge has now been confirmed for 6 February 2024 at the Hall for Cornwall. Will be an hour memorial followed by lunch. Confirmed guest speakers include Nick Rodda, George Eustice MP and Sandra Rothwell and hoping for a representative from Samworth Brothers. There will also be a legacy video produced.

Martin Siegert, Board Director advised the Board on a policy Think Tank created by Plymouth University, Falmouth University and University of Exeter. Will be launched in House of Commons on 5 February 2024, with a local launch early March 2024.

#### **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.

#### **LEP 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 2022/23 Annual Report and Financial Statements, for the Board's consideration and approval.

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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 2023 and that the LEP Chair be asked to sign on behalf of the LEP Board.***

**Any other confidential business**

(Agenda No. 6.1)

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

**Action 3: The LEP CEO to provide an update to the Board on legacy LEP investments at the future Board meeting.**

The meeting ended at 1230.