



**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 Friday 20 November 2020 commencing at 10.00 am.

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

John Acornley, Frances Brennan, Tim Dwelly CC, Fran Grottick, Edwina Hannaford CC, Steve Jermy, Emmie Kell, Louis Mathers, Poppy Naylor, Clare Parnell, Gordon Seabright, Linda Taylor CC and David Walrond.

Also in attendance:- Glenn Caplin-Grey, Phil Mason, Josie Gough, John Curnow, Carol Bransgrove, Nathan Cudmore, Geraldine Baker and Emma Coad.

Apologies for absence:- None.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda No. 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no apologies for absence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

The following declaration of interest was expressed:

1. Fran Grottick advised that she had an interest in any item relating to Smart Islands.

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LEP BOARD (30 SEPTEMBER 2020)

(Agenda No. 3)

Minutes

(Agenda No. 3.1)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 were a true and accurate record.

Actions Summary

(Agenda No. 3.2)

Actions confirmed at the meeting held on 30 September 2020, details of which were noted together with a summary of ongoing actions.

The Board was updated on the current position in relation to the ongoing action.

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 thanked the Board Directors and LEP Executive for the ongoing work in relation to the COVID-19 related actions;
2. He referred to the Comprehensive Spending Review and the potential announcements by Government on the LEP funding arrangement for the forthcoming financial year. He expressed frustration that once again an announcement on the LEP funding arrangement had not yet been made by Government;
3. In regard to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund he commented that work on this had slipped due to COVID-19; dialogue in this area would continue with Government;
4. He commented that work on the Devolution Agenda and current position in regard to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) had also slipped due to COVID-19; again, conversations would continue in these areas with Government;

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5. He referred to the Green Recovery Agenda which had been welcomed, however, there had been no specific reference to Cornwall and the Great South West. There was a need to ensure that the voice of CloS was not lost in this area of work;
6. Work continued on the Employment and Skills Board;
7. He confirmed that monies had now been paid as part of the restrictions fund grants to businesses;
8. He expressed his thanks to the Rural lead for her work; the Rural sub group had been particularly active recently;
9. He confirmed that work was progressing with DWP and expressed thanks to the Employment and Skills lead for her work in this area;
10. He commented that the Strength in Places bid would go live next week; an update would be provided by the sector lead later in the meeting;
11. He expressed thanks to those working in the communications team particularly for the improvements made in this area.

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 in his report with specific reference to the COVID-19 Recovery, Risks, Local Industrial Strategy, LEP Nominations Committee, Communications and Performance Summary details.

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

1. Reference was made to the LEP funding arrangements and the disappointment that once again no announcement had been made by Government on the funding arrangements for the forthcoming financial year. The LEP CEO confirmed that the late announcement by Government on the LEP funding arrangements, along with a one-year financial settlement allocation created difficulties in terms of forward planning. The LEP CEO reassured the LEP Board that within the financial statement that there were sufficient monies held in the contingency reserve and unallocated funds to enable the LEP to continue for a further year and winding up arrangements to be put into place should the Government decide not to commit to further funding. The Whitehall Representative confirmed that the Comprehensive Spending Review announcements on 25 November 2020 would provide a signal

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on the likelihood of LEP funding arrangements for the forthcoming financial year. She confirmed that the concerns regarding funding arrangements was being escalated internally by Area Leads. The Chair confirmed that following an announcement on 25 November 2020 Board Directors would be advised on the outcome;

2. The LEP CEO confirmed that he would provide Board Directors with communications regarding the expressions of interest and that the deadline would be extended for a further two weeks due to the implications arising from the second lockdown.

Arising from the above, the Board noted the contents of the report and the overall progress on operational activity. The Chair, on behalf of the Board thanked the LEP CEO and the LEP Executive for their work.

Action 1: The LEP Executive to provide Board Directors with an update following the Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November.

Action 2: The LEP Executive to provide Board Directors with a communication regarding the expressions of interest.

CloS Growth Hub Update

(Agenda No. 4.3)

The LEP CEO and the Chair of the Growth Hub Management Board, Louis Mathers introduced the item to the Board and welcomed to the meeting Stu Anderson, CloS Growth Hub Operations Director, to provide a presentation to the Board regarding the CloS Growth Hub.

The Operations Director made specific reference during his presentation to the following areas;

1. He provided an overview of the work of the CloS Growth Hub and explained how the Growth Hub aligned with other Hubs acting as a funnel to business support;
2. He advised that COVID-19 had seen Growth Hub interventions significantly increase;
3. He explained that the CloS Growth Hub acted as a delivery agent for a number of business support initiatives;
4. He provided details of operations pre, current and post COVID-19;
5. He confirmed that feedback on the work of the CloS Growth Hub had been positive;

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6. He referred to the Beauhurst database which would enable the CloS Growth Hub to track businesses and make proactive contact and ensure a more targeted approach;
7. He referred to the future of ERDF/ESF, BEIS and Post EU Programmes and highlighted the potential issues going forwards.

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

1. The Operations Director confirmed that the geographical split of support was evenly spread across CloS;
2. BEIS funding was vital to deliver a flexible service; the funding had enabled three extra business connectors to be appointed, one of which would cover the challenges around fishing post-Brexit;
3. The Operations Director confirmed that the newly appointed Skills Hub Manager could link up with the Employment and Skills Board; he advised that a Skills Hub Manager would commence their appointment in January 2021;
4. The Rural lead provided an update on the challenges faced by the fishing sector post-Brexit and the level of assistance that would be required in both this area and Land Management;
5. The Chair commented that the work undertaken by the Business Cell during the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the basic level of support required by businesses; there was a role for the CloS Growth Hub to provide this level of support.

The Chair expressed thanks to Stu Anderson for attending the meeting.

The LEP Board noted the activities undertaken by the CloS Growth Hub and the offer by the Whitehall Sponsor to act as a critical friend in the evaluation.

The Cornwall We Want: A shared vision for Cornwall's future renewal
(Agenda No. 4.4)

The LEP Board welcomed to the meeting, Jessie Hamshar, Strategy and Engagement Service Director at Cornwall Council.

The Board considered a report prepared by the Strategy and Engagement Service Director regarding The Cornwall We Want: a shared vision for Cornwall's recovery and renewal. She outlined the report with specific reference to the evidence base for our future vision provided by 'The Cornwall We Know', an analysis of the challenges and opportunities; and 'The Cornwall

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We Want' feedback report on what residents have said about their hopes for the future. She sought comments and endorsement on the vision for Cornwall's future set out in 'Gyllyn Warbarth, Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan' and comments and endorsement of the devolution proposals development by the LEP for inclusion within a strong collective case to Government for the devolved powers and funding that would enable an accelerated progress towards the vision.

She highlighted the main points within the report and advised that the future's document would constantly evolve with annual reviews on progress. She confirmed that there was multi-agency support for the 'Gyllyn Warbath, Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan and endorsement from Environment Secretary, George Eustice. She advised that the plan would be considered by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board on 11 December 2020.

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

1. The plan had strong links to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and would provide a platform for devolution if there was a clear vision set out for CloS;
2. Confirmation that there was still an opportunity to make changes to the Plan;
3. It was acknowledged that a Council Scrutiny Committee had indicated that they could not support the Plan; LEP Board Directors confirmed that their focus at the meeting today was on the LEP perspective;
4. In regard to the culture and heritage element of the Plan it was commented that there were areas which could be strengthened to better reflect the current situation; reference was also made to further refinement of the sustainable tourism element of the Plan;
5. It was commented that the Plan would assist Cornwall's approach to Planning by providing the context for how we plan for the future in Planning terms;
6. The endorsement by the Environment Secretary, George Eustice was welcomed;
7. The challenges over the vertical integration of education in Cornwall (schools, Further Education, Higher Education and Adult Education) need to be recognised;
8. It was recognised that the Plan would evolve over time; the Plan provided a useful place to start the conversation;
9. The Employment and Skills lead confirmed that there was school representation on the Employment and Skills Board (ESB); the Strategy

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and Engagement Service Director offered to attend an ESB to discuss the points raised regarding an integrated education system in Cornwall.

The LEP Board thanked the Strategy and Engagement Service Director and her team for the work undertaken to the achieve the Plan and for attending the meeting to present the report to the Board.

Arising from the above, the Board noted the contents of the report and having regard to the comments expressed above agreed that:

Decision:

1. **The evidence base for our future vision provided by ‘The Cornwall We Know’, an analysis of our challenges and opportunities; and ‘The Cornwall We Want’ Feedback report on what residents have told us about their hopes for the future;**
2. **The board endorses the vision for Cornwall’s future set out in ‘Gyllyn Warbath, Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan subject to the culture element being strengthened in consultation with the LEP Culture Lead and the education and sustainable tourism sections also being strengthened;**
3. **The Board endorses the devolution proposals developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership, for inclusion within a strong collective case to Government for the devolved powers and funding that would enable progress to be accelerated towards this vision.**

Action: Decision

Enterprise Zones Board Update
(Agenda No. 4.5)

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.

The LEP CEO and Steve Jermy, Board Director outlined the report which referred to Freeports, Business Plan, EZ Growth Fund, Rate Relief, Aerohub+, Marine Hub Cornwall, Investment Pipeline & Marketing Strategy, LEP Network EZ Extension and Performance.

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

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1. Steve Jermy, Board Director provided an update on the latest position regarding Floating Offshore Wind;
2. The LEP CEO provided an update on the current position regarding Freeports. He explained that an independent piece of work had been commissioned on the potential for a CloS bid. The report had concluded that CloS were in a credible position to submit a bid and that success could be achieved from combining the assets at Falmouth and Newquay Airport. The report did flag up that any bid by CloS would be smaller in scale than those in other parts of the country. The LEP Board was informed that Cornwall Council's Cabinet had indicated that the Council's position was that they did not wish to see Freeports on Cornwall Council owned land. The LEP CEO confirmed that he would share the report with the LEP Board and sought to clarify on Cornwall Council's position regarding Freeports and that he would report back to the Enterprise Zone Board.

The Board noted the update on the activity associated with Cornwall Enterprise Zones and the current positions regarding Floating Offshore Wind and Freeports.

The Whitehall Representative confirmed that she had offered a conversation with Freeport experts in the unit.

NOTED THAT Mark Goodwin left the Board meeting during consideration of the above item.

Action 3: The LEP CEO to bring a report back to the LEP Board with a decision required by the Board as to whether to submit a bid.

Any other business

(Agenda No. 4.6)

CloS Investment Fund – Update

John Acornley, Board Director provided the Board with an update on the current position regarding the CloS Investment Fund. He provided details of the funding granted to date and advised that it was hoped that the Fund could assist struggling businesses that were pre-COVID-19 successful to minimise the damage that COVID-19 was having on their business.

The Chair thanked John Acornley for his work regarding the CloS Investment Fund. The CloS Investment Fund was one of three successful regional

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investment schemes in the country, providing a great example of the CloS taking the lead and delivering.

NOTED THAT Steve Jermy and Cllr Edwina Hannaford left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

Fishing Sector

The Board noted that the first, lively LEP Engagement had been undertaken with the Fishing Sector. It was recommended that a specific agenda item be included in the New Year.

Action 4: The LEP Executive to include an item on a future LEP Board agenda regarding fishing.

NOTED THAT Clare Parnell, Tim Dwelly CC left the meeting at the conclusion of the above item.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break from 12.11- 12.20pm.

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 & 5.3 due to the confidential nature of the items.

Audit and Assurance Committee - 2019/20 Annual Report and Financial Statements

(Agenda No. 5.1)

The Board considered an exempt report prepared by the LEP CEO which provided the Board with the 2019/2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements, together with the Audit Discussion Memorandum for the Board's consideration and approval.

Arising from consideration of the above, the Board referred to the following:

1. Confirmation that interviews would shortly be undertaken to fill the non-executive Board Director vacancies;
2. Frustration that the Government had yet to announce funding settlements for LEPs;

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3. The LEP CEO provided a reassurance to the LEP Board that sufficient monies were held in reserve to enable the LEP to continue for a further year and undertake winding up arrangements should the Government decide not commit to funding LEPs;
4. Confirmation that the Audit and Assurance Committee had considered and recommended to the LEP Board that the Annual Report and Financial Statements be approved;
5. The view was expressed that the financial position of the LEP be included as a standing item on the Audit and Assurance Committee agenda.

Decision:

The Board approved the CloS LEP Company Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 and the LEP Chair was asked to sign off on behalf of the Board.

Action: Decision

Annual Performance Review Update

(Agenda No. 5.2)

The Board was provided with an update on the current position with the CloS Local Enterprise Performance (LEP) Annual Performance Review (APR) which took place in January 2020.

The Board noted the current position.

Any other confidential business

(Agenda No. 5.3)

Employment and Skills Board

The Employment and Skills Lead provided an update on the recruitment to the Employment and Skills Board.

The meeting ended at 12.53 pm.

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