

Initiation Form

Summary		Reference:	COM005
Activity Name:	Community Skills Hubs		
Activity Description:	Community Skills Hubs, established in existing buildings, making it easier for residents of all ages to locally access and take part in skills training, helping them to develop their skills and future employability. Funding can be utilised to strengthen the sustainability of the asset and build long lasting skills partnerships, and this includes reimagining of community and education buildings within Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (CIS). Aligned to programmes of digital skills, Multiply and wider training and skills opportunities.		
Investment Priority:	Communities and Place	Intervention:	E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
Funding Available:	£ 5,198,000 (Total)	£ 3,498,000 (Capital)	£ 1,700,000 (Revenue)
Open Date: Application	31/10/2022	Close Date:	02/12/2022

Context
<p>Description: Description of the activity and what is expected to be achieved</p> <p>Our Good Growth Investment Plan identifies that investment will be made into Community Skills Hubs, established in existing buildings in order to strengthen the sustainability of the asset. This includes reimagining of community and education buildings.</p> <p>Alongside capital improvement to buildings, project proposals will need articulate their skills partnerships from the outset, clearly setting out how skills delivery will be embedded within newly formed Community Skills Hubs. Skills delivery will need to be aligned to programmes of digital skills, Multiply and wider training and skills opportunities</p> <p>The buildings will offer local communities and their hinterland the opportunity to engage with and benefit from a range of skills and training opportunities. Helping to future-proof local community workforces and fill much needed skills gaps in our communities through relevant courses and training.</p> <p>The Community Hubs will need to be designed and delivered in partnership with local skills providers (providers should be included as partners in the application), acting as ‘satellite’ buildings to existing campus(s) or provision. This will ensure that existing and new skills programmes, accredited and non-accredited qualifications, can be delivered in closer proximity to local communities, reducing the need to travel; whilst delivering activities at flexible times and locations to meet the needs of the community.</p>

Community Skills Hubs should provide geographical coverage and proximity for the most deprived neighbourhoods as well as neighbourhoods who have previously been less likely to engage with skills training offers and should offer the following types of activity:

- Enhanced awareness, access and pride in local skills provision
- Deliver, in partnership with skills providers, high quality, industry relevant and complementary skills provision that supports the local community and socio-economic aspirations for the area; enabling businesses and residents to train, re-skill or upskill and help address current and future skills needs for local areas
- Also providing access to basic skills opportunities and wrap around support, for example digital, numeracy and literacy
- Enable local business engagement and knowledge exchange in order to co-design and develop skills provision to meet local labour market needs
- Identify cold spots for participation and undertake targeted activities to support engagement
- Engage with local primary and secondary schools to highlight local skills priorities and provide business engagement and work experience opportunities
- Access to Labour Market Information and intelligence within the local community and more widely

Strategic Alignment: Description of how proposals should meet strategic objectives, local need and the programme priorities. Expectations for coordination with other funding programmes.

Proposals should demonstrate evidence, showing their strategic fit and link to local community, social or economic needs.

This opportunity contributes significantly to the achievement of Government’s Mission 1 for Levelling Up: Improve productivity and pay, closing the gap between regions.

This opportunity contributes significantly to the achievement of Government’s Mission 6 for Levelling Up: 200,000 more people per year completing high quality skills training.

Communities and Place Objectives:

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
- Building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Interventions:

- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

Our Good Growth Investment Plan identifies that previous investment in roads, rail, other forms of public transport and our airport means that CloS has never been more accessible, both physically and virtually. However, transport remains Cornwall’s largest source of carbon emissions and there remain marked challenges for our communities and places, especially when goods and services require long distance transport to reach their markets and/or where residents must travel to find employment, skills and training.

Targeted support to create new job and training opportunities in areas that need it most, to facilitate remote working, to improve productivity, to develop new businesses, products/ services and new markets, to increase the value of the circular economy and improve the efficiency and decarbonisation of transport systems, will all help to address this disadvantage whilst also helping to deliver net zero objectives.

While employment rates are increasing across our communities, wages are still low, and our dispersed settlement pattern often means that the cost of travelling to employment and skills centres (often via private transport) represents a greater proportion of household income and can often be the key prohibitive barrier. This often means that employees settle for lower paid work closer to home rather than better paid work elsewhere, as the extra pay does not cover the additional costs of travel.

There are 26,000 (15%) workless households in CloS, which is higher than the UK average of 13.8%. Ill health and caring responsibilities are key factors, hampering the opportunities for some of these households and impacting negatively on our economy. Creating employment and skills opportunities across CloS in new and existing businesses will help to reduce the need to travel and increase the economic opportunities for workless households.

The delivery of skills and training opportunities into local communities, in partnership with local schools, further and higher education, communities and local business is reflected in a number of Council documents:

- **Cornwall Strategy and Business Plan 2022/2026:** We want a thriving, sustainable Cornwall that offers a secure home, a decent income and a great environment for all. These are the foundation stones of our future. We want to support people of all ages to retrain, learn new skills and realise their ambitions. We are determined that local residents benefit from new job opportunities in our high growth sectors. This will mean increased take up of apprenticeships and fewer people out of work. We will better align training with the skills needs of local employers in our changing economy and accelerate digital skills development. We will deliver proactive outreach to those furthest from the labour market. We will support them with skills and the challenges associated with poverty, insecure housing, ill health and wellbeing.
- **Local Skills and Labour Market Strategy 2021/2030:** Partnerships between various parts of the skills system are vital for a joined-up approach to learning supply. CloS has some exemplars of employer engagement; these are successfully linking employers, learners, schools and providers to provide employer-led training and effective progression pathways to enable CloS to address local skills needs.
- **CloS Local Industrial Strategy:** Over 40% of the population live in settlements of less than 3,000 people. Consequently, these places are a major resource in the future economy of CloS and will increasingly depend on digital connectivity and sustainable and affordable transport to sustain employment, population and vitality in these communities. Our future economy will be built on creativity and technology. Capitalising on consistent investment in creative and digital infrastructure.

Co-ordination with other funding programmes: Applicants should also demonstrate how their proposal will complement mainstream funded activity, highlighting what wrap-around support is being proposed, and how communities and beneficiaries will be identified and engaged. Where appropriate, alignment with and signposting to Multiply and other people and skills activities and interventions being delivered.

Please note:

- **Cornwall Council reserves the right to allocate more or less funding than the values set out in this Invitation to bid.**
- **This invitation to bid is subject to DLUHC sign-off of the CloS Good Growth SPF Investment Plan**

All funding expended should contribute to the "Good Growth" requirements outlined in the CloS UK SPF Investment plan. Higher levels of funding distribution may be spent on projects, activity or initiatives that deliver the greatest contribution to these objectives, especially where they are located and/or target the areas and people of Cornwall and the IoS most in need of levelling up.

Route to Market: Open Invitation

Explanation of the chosen route to market:

In order to meet subsidy control requirements and identify the projects that will deliver best value for money an open invitation for bids is viewed as the most appropriate route to market.

This route to market will enable all relevant and interested organisations in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly the opportunity to apply for funding to deliver their ambitions. Applications are welcomed from partnerships, individual organisations and include voluntary, community, public and private sector organisations. Project(s) must be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds.

Specific Requirements: Please identify any specific requirements

Applications are welcomed from partnerships, individual organisations and include voluntary, community, public and private sector organisations. We expect applications to have a good range of stakeholders, including at least one skills provider

In line with our Good Growth principles, preference will be weighted towards organisations with business operations and employment base already in CloS.

The minimum contract award value is set at £500,000 and we expect to see applications with higher capital to revenue costs. We reserve the right to ask applicants to submit a full Business Case prior to contracting where appropriate.

Cornwall Council encourages applicants to maximise the leverage of other funding within project design. However, we recognise not all projects, or applicants will be able to secure match funding. Applicants should note value for money will be a selection consideration as it has a number of benefits, including enhanced alignment with other provision and efficient delivery which increases value for money. Therefore, we will take the overall funding package for each project, including any match funding, into account.

Proposals should:

1. Set out how people and skills opportunities are clearly embedded as part of wider project delivery and how the proposals will link to existing people and skills activities for example, Multiply, apprenticeships, traineeships, work placements and work experience opportunities.
2. Demonstrate how activity will complement and not duplicate mainstream and other funded activity. Clearly highlight the added value being proposed and how communities, individuals, businesses and local education institutions to be supported will be identified and engaged.
3. Describe how social value will be built into capital expenditure.
4. Respond to a clearly identified need and clearly describe the need.
5. Not conflict with national policy or local strategies.
6. Describe a plan for securing future funding to support ongoing operational costs of community skills hubs beyond Shared Prosperity Fund investment.

Budget & Spend Profile

Funding Available:	£ 5,198,000	£ 3,498,000	£ 1,700,000
	(Total)	(Capital)	(Revenue)
Minimum Award:	£ 500,000	Maximum Award:	£ 5,198,000
	22/23	23/24	24/25
			Total

Intervention (E)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)
E15 - Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	0	0.2	0.498	0.5	3.0	1.0	3.498	1.70
Total	0	0.2	0.498	0.5	3.0	1.0	3.498	1.70
Total per year	0.2		0.998		4.0		5.198	
Intervention Rate:	80- 100 % (Maximum)			Target Leverage:	£ 1,039,600 (Total)			
Spend Start:	01/11/2022			Spend End:	31/03/2025			

Good Growth Principles

All SPF investments must be made in consideration of the Equality Act 2010. It is mandatory for all applications to assess impact of their project between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In addition, the following specific good growth principles must be considered for this activity:

Clean and Green	Business / Economy	Equality/Inclusive growth
C1 Reduction in CO2 emissions <input type="checkbox"/>	BE1 Increase % of workforce earning real living wage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EQ1 Invest in projects that encourage a healthy lifestyle <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 Circularity - reduction in use of virgin raw materials. Recycle reuse principles <input type="checkbox"/>	BE2 Improve productivity of businesses in CloS <input type="checkbox"/>	EQ2 Reduce gender pay gap <input type="checkbox"/>
G1 Nature recovery <input type="checkbox"/>	BE3 Contribute positively to CloS economy, environment and equality through purchasing/procurement <input type="checkbox"/>	EQ3 Increased levels of functional numeracy and literacy in the adult population <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G2 Attracting private sector green finance income to Cornwall <input type="checkbox"/>		EQ4 Maximise opportunity for people with disability and ill health (including mental health) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Contribute to the Environmental Growth Strategy for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	<input type="checkbox"/>			EQ5 Maximise work based opportunities for those with SEND particularly relating to spectrum disorders and dyslexia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				EQ6 support for the aging population to remain economically active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				EQ7 Support young (under 30) entrepreneurs	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EQ8 Levelling-up of towns and neighbourhoods throughout CloS	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EQ9 Increased capacity and place-based leadership in communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EQ10 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (Equality Act 2010)	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EQ11 Assist individuals with complex barriers to employment to access opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				EQ12 Have a positive impact on children and promote and uphold children's rights under UNCRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outputs/Outcomes

For this invitation to bid we are looking for activity that delivers the following outputs and outcomes:

E15: Investment support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	Output / Outcome	Total for the period 2022/23 – 2024/25
Number of organisations receiving grants	Output	37
Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support	Outcome	37
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	Outcome	7

The outputs and outcomes stated here reflect our Investment Plan submission to Government. Applicants should note Cornwall Council reserves the right to adjust and refine these outputs and outcomes as delivery progresses during the duration of our SPF programme and further national guidance becomes available.

Appraisal Criteria			
Strategic Alignment	Good Growth	Deliverability	Value for Money
30 %	30 %	20 %	20 %
Explanation for criteria weighting			
As this investment spans across the full 3-year programme, slightly higher weightings for strategic alignment and good growth have been allocated. This will ensure that we secure project(s) that have high levels of strategic fit and contribute to Good Growth.			

For further information on the programme please refer to the [Good Growth website](#). Completed Applications and relevant documentation must be submitted via email to goodgrowth@cornwall.gov.uk before the deadline stated on this Form.

Support and guidance to assist applicants through the application process is available at [Good Growth website](#).

More information on Shared Prosperity Fund can be found on the UK Government website; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

Date Updated:	11/10/2022	Lead:	Good Growth Team
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