

Delivered by



**LEVELLING
UP**

Minutes

Meeting Title: CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel

Date: 10 November 2022

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Location: Trelawny Room, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

Chaired by: Cllr Linda Taylor (LT)

Attending:

Allister Young (AY)	Martin Tucker (MT)	Cllr Stephen Barnes (SB)
Benjamin Deer (BD)	Cllr Peter LaBroy (PB)	Ann Vandermeulen (AV)
Clare Parnell (CP)	Robin Teverson (RT)	Cllr Daniel Marcus (DM)
David Barton (DB)	Sarah Newham (SN)	George Eustice (GE)
Frances Wall (FW)	Simon Mould (SM)	John Peacock (JP)
Laura Whyte (LW)	Stuart Roden (SR)	Kate Perkin (KP)
Lloyd Brina (LB)	Steve Jermy (SJ)	Layla Burrows (LB)
Malcolm Bell (MB)	Lindsey Hall (LH)	Caroline Court (CC)
Mark Duddridge (MD)	Steve Double (SD)	Elisia Irving (EI)
Jordan Rowse (JR)		

Officers:

Glenn Caplin-Grey (GCG)	Claire Hurley (CH)	Stephen Facer (SF)
Emily Kent (EK)	Carol Bransgrove (CB)	Josie Gough (JG)
Jordan Whaley (JW)	James Glover (JG)	Corinne Lancaster (CL)

Apologies: John Bessell, Rachel Wigglesworth, Emma Hunt, Cherilyn Mackrory

Supported by: Debbie Osborne, Governance and Engagement Assistant

Minutes		Action
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel and members then took it in turn to introduce themselves and the organisation/sector they were representing. 	

Minutes	Action
<p>2 Declarations of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was covered by way of introductions. 	
<p>3 Election of Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel were reminded that, as set out in the terms of reference, the Panel Vice Chair should be a representative from the private sector or third sector. • The Chair proposed RT, which was seconded by CP. The Panel approved the appointment of RT as Vice Chair. 	
<p>4 Good Growth Programme Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UKSPF is part of the UK government’s wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives: Boosting Productivity; Spreading Opportunities; Restoring a sense of Community; and Empowering Local Leaders. • CloS Budget Allocation: £132,001,531. Money Ringfenced for Multiply Programme: £2,452,414. Programme Management Fee (up to 4%): £5,181,965. It will be key to programme success to ensure a significant pipeline is in place and will need to work closely with Government on spend definitions and profiles. • 3 Investment Priorities: Community and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People & Skills. The first 2 priorities will be prioritised due to spend timelines. Each priority then has several individual activities, along with a set of outcomes that have been brought together with government guidance. • All funded projects will contribute to the CloS Good Growth principles. • There will be a mix of routes to market to ensure coordination especially in terms of skills, business and people support, including: Open invitations to bid; in-house delivery; procurement and strategic commissioning; and delegated grants schemes and proportional processes. Advice and guidance from the Panel would be welcomed on routes to market for remaining funding. • In relation to the gateway criteria, all projects have to have/provide evidence of/for: Real Living Wage (RLW) employer (this will be closely monitored); Environmental Policy; and Equality and Diversity Policy. • EK outlined the role of the CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide local insight and expertise helping to identify and address both need and opportunity for the UK SPF and wider 	

Minutes	Action
<p>economic policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide advice on commissioning plans and allocations. ○ Advocate and act as an ambassador for the Good Growth CloS SPF programme. <p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LT: How can the Prosperity Advisory Panel influence spend? EK: Advice on scoping initiation forms on how to address needs and maximise value on spend within the guidelines. There will be opportunities for Panel members to get involved with smaller sub/task and finish groups to help support bringing forward the right projects. LT: Panel input will be very important for the Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) going forward. ● LT: What support for applicants is available? EK: New Team now fully in place (Fund Management and Strategy & Implementation). All enquiries are triaged and reviewed by the team and support will be provided to help write application forms to ensure strategic fit. A Community Capacity and Facilitation Team has also been specifically set up to help support community organisations. ● MD: Have been promoting the fund through networks but there is still a reluctance from some businesses. It would be helpful to have a page on the website for 'what good looks like'. Should we continue to promote? EK: Yes, the fund continues to be promoted as widely as possible but the team will take a look at the communications to ensure it responds to applicant needs. ● RT: Is there any flexibility to move budgets around during the programme? JW: anything below £5m can be moved between the interventions, anything over £5m needs to be taken back to Government for approval as a "material change". ● RT: There is a large emphasis on jobs and not productivity, how will the programme look at that? EK: There is a drive to increase productivity through growth but given this is a very short term programme, measuring productivity is a challenge. It will be captured through monitoring the outcomes which have been committed to Government. ● JP: Access to Finance were helpful in getting SMEs through the grant process. This could be utilised when looking at other business support packages. Also, the Isles of Scilly voucher scheme allowed projects to spend in a month – this might be a useful model to consider. 	

Minutes	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB: Will projects be at risk if not on spend target? EK: The decision was taken to move forward at risk to ensure spend. There is also no extension beyond 2025. GCG: the other pressure is the transition between ESF/ERDF and SPF. Decisions have had to be made before the ESF/ERDF funding ends. • GE: it would be useful to have a session on lessons learned from previous EU programmes and then build those into future design features of new funding programmes. Action 1: Lessons Learned to be added as a discussion item to the next Panel agenda. EK: Consultation over the last 12 months has helped develop the Investment Plan. • GE: Suggested possibly changing from Gateway to Scoring criteria. EK: The Delivery Facilitation Team will ensure projects have everything they need including all policies in place to make sure this is not a barrier. • AV: Real Living Wage (RLW) can be a barrier to some businesses. Need to ensure communications promote the opportunity that applicants can have additional help to support any applications. • SB: How can businesses access the funding? EK: the CloS Growth Hub is the first point of call for all businesses. This will become SPF funded once ERDF funding ends. They will put together a plan for whatever support is needed. Organisations however need to go via the Good Growth website. • SR: What funding decisions were made at the last EPB? EK: All decisions on applications are confidential until funding agreements are signed, they will then be made public so should be able to advise Panel members at the next meeting. • SR: Will there be some smaller focus groups set up to look at more focused projects? EK: Yes, smaller task and finish groups will be set up to focus on particular areas of the strategy once the Investment Plan has been signed off by Government. • SJ: Cost of energy crisis affecting all businesses and communities. Action 2: SJ to provide a briefing and support the team on the energy transition. 	<p style="text-align: center;">CB/DO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SJ</p>
<p>5 Year 1/2/3 Commissioning Plan</p> <p>Year 1 Commissioning Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 Commissioning Plan total - £54.5m. • Open invitation to bid (EPB decision Oct-Nov) - £8.7m. • Strategic commissioning (EPB decision Oct-Nov) - £2.6m. 	

Minutes	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct delivery (Y1 approved by Cabinet, Y2 and 3 by EPB) - £5.75m (£6.95m total for July decision incl multi-year commitment for Community Capacity programme). • Management fee (up to) - £0.83m. • Local Authorities have flexibility over how the Fund is distributed, known as Routes to Market. A competitive invitation to bid process will be the default route to market for the fund. Any decision not to undertake competition for funding must be justified. • From launch on 5 August until 3 November, the Good Growth inbox received a total of 594 enquires, which were triaged by the Good Growth Team. A good level has already been approved and the Team are now working towards contracts and funding agreements. <p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW: Why were some applications not provided with an application form? JW: There are a variety of reasons why not all enquiries were provided with an application form, e.g. not enough detail, project at concept stage, or signposted to support. • DM: We are in a good position now with bigger opportunities available. Need to ensure all preparatory work on any match funding is sorted for those businesses. EK: it all comes back to communications and being clear on what is eligible and what isn't. Should be able to work with the Growth Hub on match and eligibility. • DM: Can the Isles of Scilly be included separately in any future geographical analysis? Action 3: Good Growth Team to ensure that IoS is included separately. <p>Year 2/3 Commissioning Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £7m still to be committed in Years 2/3 especially skills in Year 3. • Communities and Place (£47m total SPF 2022/25) - £27m committed in Year 1 across a range of routes to market to support interventions which would support communities with a particular emphasis on levelling up towns and neighbourhoods across CloS, increased connectivity, capacity and place-based leadership, increased average wages, a reduction in CO2 emissions, a reduction in the health life expectancy gap and increased skills levels. Years 2/3 will see further support 	<p>JW/CH</p>

Minutes	Action
<p>through the remaining £20m being carefully programmed across the established investment priority activities COM001 to COM007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Levelling Up Programme: £9.28m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Community Connectivity: £5.5m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Investment and Skills Interventions to Reduce and Mitigate Impact of Cost of Living: £5.5m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. <p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SR: Will later applications be prejudiced if spend already spent in previous years? EK: Applications can be submitted now that span the whole 3 years. We need to ensure that all projects calculate to the final programme amount. Review points are fixed and need to be strict on deadlines. Applicants submitting an enquiry form will be triaged and reviewed before moving to the next stage. ● SN: Reducing the employment gap is critical. EK: As we can't directly fund people and skills until Year 3, for Y1 and 2, applications need to be crafted employment and skills to make the beneficiary the community not the individual. ● AY: Link up with Turning Tide Initiative. EK advised that Rachel Wigglesworth is already a member of the Panel so links in place. ● AY: It would be good to ensure that those with a strategic leadership role in housing in Cornwall are aware of this, so that we can make sure we don't miss opportunities to leverage funding into improving the housing situation in Cornwall, and that a good way of starting this would be to have the Good Growth Team present to a meeting of the CloS Strategic Housing Group. Action 4: Good Growth Team to liaise with AY over attendance at a Strategic Housing Group. ● DM: Ensuring Isles of Scilly is included especially with retrofit programmes. Is anything ringfenced in Levelling Up (LUP)? EK: the geography covers with whole of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. There are landowner issues when it comes to retrofit but is working with Council of Isles of Scilly. ● Supporting Local Business (total £64.96m SPF 2022/25) - Year 1 committed £25m of support. Year 2/3 will further develop initiatives across various routes to market to help CloS 	<p>CH</p>

Minutes	Action
<p>businesses respond to the prevailing economic issues, with a particular emphasis on investments leading to increased averages wages, improved productivity for businesses, increased jobs in high value sectors, increased per capita spend on RD&I, increased export and inward investment, a reduction in CO2 emissions and increased skills levels in the workforce. £39.96m is available in Years 2/3 to target this strand of investment activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CloS Good Growth Hub: £15.7m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Research, Development and Innovation Skills and Business Support Programme: £13.25 to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Strategic Sector Development (incl. Targeted Sector Skills and Talent Programme): £4m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Trade and Investment Programme: £0.8m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. ○ Net Zero and Resilience and Green Skills Programme: £5.95m to commission for y2 and y3 delivery. <p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MB: Could SME support be provided for 2 years? EK: Long term support is critical so this will be captured in any model design for Growth Hub. ● MD: It's a very complicated landscape at the moment so the sooner the roadmap is in place the better with clarity on processes and timelines especially in relation to the potential gap between funding programmes. ● LB: Need to ensure that Access to Finance is not lost. EK: Access to Finance under ERDF has proved valuable. If the co-design asks for it then will ensure it's included in any future design. ● CP: having generic and specialist support packages. Can existing funds be used for any support package. How do we market/reach those sectors that don't traditionally use/go to the Growth Hub? EK: It's looking at how much should be spent on targeted sector development and supporting key sectors. This is where the Growth Hub should be signposting accordingly. ● SJ: There are lots of funds available and should be making the most of it. Businesses are struggling with finance support so need to ensure there is a shared service model that all can 	

Minutes	Action
<p>access. It would also be useful to offer sector briefings e.g. FLOW, tech metals, space and data and how the programme can support them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People & Skills (£12m) – Government guidance precludes spend on this investment priority in Year 1 and 2 (2022/23 & 2023/24). £12m has been set aside for 2024/25 to support green upskilling, digital upskilling, youth engagement and coordinated people & skills support. Emphasis in this priority area includes increasing skills levels in the workforce, greater levels of workforce participation, increased average wages in CloS, increased levels of functional numeracy and literacy in the adult population, reduction in the healthy life expectancy gap. Multiply is an additional (ringfenced) £2.4m 3 year programme targeting adult numeracy. £2.1m has been committed in the Year 1 commissioning plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinated People and Skills Support: £6m to commission for y3 delivery. ○ Youth Engagement: £2m to commission for y3 delivery. ○ Digital Upskilling: £2m to commission for y3 delivery. ○ Green Upskilling: £2m to commission for y3 delivery. <p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB: Is there scope to do development work ready for delivery in Year 3? EK: Yes, it could potentially be scoped as part of the programme management. 	
<p>6 Rural Prosperity Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5.6m additional funds to the CloS Good Growth Investment Plan with grants being for business or community purposes and must be capital. • There has been extensive consultation with stakeholders over the couple of months. The team are currently writing the Investment Plan addendum ready for submission on 30 November 2022. • Will be taken to EPB on 16 November with Cornwall Council Cabinet and Council of the Isles of Scilly decisions on 14 and 15 December. • Will also fall within the remit of the Prosperity Advisory Panel for advice and guidance. • LT: Councillor Martyn Alvey has been asked to attend EPB in an advisory capacity for any related discussions on the Rural Prosperity Fund. 	

Minutes	Action
<p>Panel Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD: Some businesses would already be interested so what would be the route. EK: Pipeline currently being prepared so will work with applicants on ensuring they are ready. • JP: Is nature recovery eligible? EK: Would depend on whether capital or revenue. Action 5: JP to liaise with the Good Growth Team over the nature recovery project. 	JP/EK/JW
<p>Final Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EK: Panel will meet at least twice a year but will look at key elements now for Levelling Up and Business Support co-design. Any individuals that wish to get involved with specific sub/task and finish groups, then please contact the Good Growth Team goodgrowth@cornwall.gov.uk who will then liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair on volunteers. • PB: Would like a deeper understanding of how productivity is achieved. • RT: Would be useful to have another Panel meeting to discuss sub/task and finish groups once the programme is agreed and clearer. EK: Action 6: A schedule of meetings is currently being produced and will be circulated to Panel members as soon as possible. • AV: Can substitutes be nominated when unable to attend? EK: Yes, with the agreement of the Chair, that would be useful to ensure all sectors remain represented at meetings. • LT: Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and look forward to thoughts and contributions to supporting the programme. 	DO

Meeting finished at 4.15pm.

Appendix 1

CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel Membership

Members	Representing
Linda Taylor (Chair)	Cornwall Council
Robin Teverson (Vice Chair)	CloS Local Nature Partnership
Allister Young	Housing Sector
Andrew Yates	Faith Organisations
Ann Vandermeulen	Federation of Small Businesses/CloS Good Growth Hub
Benjamin Deer	Police and Crime
Cherilyn Mackrory	CloS Members of Parliament
Clare Parnell	Agri-food Sector
Daniel Marcus	Council of the IoS Elected Member representative
David Barton	Cornwall Association of Secondary Headteachers
Emma Hunt	Higher Education institutions in CloS
Frances Wall	Georesources Sector
George Eustice	CloS Members of Parliament
John Bessell	Cornwall Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board
John Peacock	Islands Futures Board
Kate Perkin	Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum
Kim Conchie	Cornwall Community Foundation
Laura Whyte	Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
Layla Burrows	Innovate UK
Lindsey Hall	Skills Providers
Lloyd Brina	British Business Bank
Malcolm Bell	Visitor Economy sector
Mark Duddridge	CloS Local Enterprise Partnership
Martin Tucker	Further Education Colleges in CloS
Peter LaBroy	Cornwall Council Elected Member representative
Rachel Wigglesworth	CloS Health and Wellbeing Board/Public Health
Sarah Newham	Employment Experts and Providers
Scott Mann	CloS Members of Parliament
Sheryll Murray	CloS Members of Parliament
Simon Mould	Community Area Partnerships
Stephen Barnes	Cornwall Council Elected Member representative
Steve Double	CloS Members of Parliament
Steve Jermy	Clean Energy Sector
Stuart Roden	Cornwall Association of Local Councils