

Initiation Form

Summary		Reference:	
		BUS007b	
Activity Name:	Net Zero and Resilience and Green Skills Programme		
Activity Description:	Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, such as flooding and coastal erosion		
Investment Priority:	Supporting Local Business	Intervention:	E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.
Funding Available:	£ 2,900,000 (Total)	This funding opportunity includes both capital and revenue funding . While an indicative split has been included in the financial tables below, we encourage projects to come forward with the capital/revenue split that is appropriate for them to deliver against this initiation form.	
Type of funding opportunity:	Open invitation for projects to come forward.		
Open Date:	02/03/2023	Close Date:	24/07/2023
Review Point 1:	30/05/2023	Review Point 2:	24/07/2023

Context

Description: Description of the activity and what is expected to be achieved

As a coastal region, CloS is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, but equally; the region is rich in natural capital (both blue and green space) with significant potential to develop effective adaptation

and mitigation strategies to improve water resilience and protect our businesses and communities from flooding, and coastal erosion.

The CloS has a high prevalence of small to medium businesses, an absence of larger employers, and the relative size of the visitor economy means that many of our businesses rely on income generated in town centres. As outlined in the SPF Investment Plan protecting businesses in the face of flood risks and coastal erosion is paramount to the region's development, including shops and high streets.

The CIOs is leading the way towards the growth of green skills in the economy; ranked as the third strongest performing region at the aggregate level for the creation of green jobs ([Green-Jobs-and-Skills-DD-Research-P06-Kovia.pdf \(cioslep.com\)](#)). The synergy between nature-based resilience programs and the development of green skills will underpin the parallel growth of the green economy alongside projects that are being sought to deliver this program.

The aim of this activity is to protect properties and vulnerable businesses from the effects of coastal erosion and flooding, and in so doing safeguard jobs and support productivity. Below is non exhaustive list of the type of activity that can be funded under this scheme:

- Habitat restoration and protection that form part of a flood resilience scheme, such as tree planting, woodland and wetland restoration or new habitat creation
- Making Cornwall more drought tolerant; habitats more resilient and improving potable water quality.
- Rain water harvesting and innovative water management schemes to reduce water demand and the carbon cost of water treatment, whilst benefiting natural ecosystems, and reducing flash flooding
- Sand dunes expansion and management as a natural erosion management tool
- Development of carbon credit and habitat bank schemes that leverage private sector investment towards nature restoration
- River restoration and river management schemes
- The development of green skills to support the growth and sustainability of nature-based resilience infrastructure
- The IoS suffer from saltwater intrusion into ground water supplies leading to an increased reliance on desalination plants which are energy intensive and normally fossil fuel driven. Innovative ways of reducing desalination resilience and providing alternative sources of potable water are encouraged.

Net biodiversity and biomass gain will be a priority focus for projects delivering under this scheme. Projects are encouraged to incorporate the growth of green skills within CloS. Engagement with local landowners as part of the delivery will be encouraged to embed long term behaviour change, as well as community engagement to raise awareness. Projects are also encouraged to use CSI technology as a means of delivering baseline evidence for project evaluations. Projects should seek to use funding from this program to leverage further public or private investment.

All projects must incorporate the Good Growth principles and ensure that delivery contributes towards these.

All projects must be fully compliant with UK Subsidy Control and procurement rules.

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 strategic fit and link to local community, social or economic needs.

The Cornwall Plan 2020-2050 ([Cornwall Plan 2020 - 2050 | Together We Can | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)) sets out a shared vision for 2050 for CloS, with clear ambitions to develop a creative, carbon zero economy.

It will be important for applicants to demonstrate how their project aligns with key strategic objectives outlined in the CloS Environmental Growth Strategy and, for coastal projects, the CloS Shoreline Management Plan. Demonstrating how projects will deliver against the Good Growth principles will also be key, with particular reference to the nature recovery principles. Consideration of alignment with other county wide schemes should also be demonstrated, such as the Defra funded Pathfinder Property Flood Resilience project.

All funding expended should contribute to the “Good Growth” requirements outlined in the CIOs 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 CIOs most in need of levelling up.

This opportunity contributes significantly to the achievement of Government’s Mission 1 for Levelling Up:
To reduce the gap of pay, employment and productivity in all regions across the UK.

This opportunity contributes significantly to the achievement of Government’s Mission 2 for Levelling Up:
The leverage of private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

The UK SPF has been launched by UK Government’s as part of its wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK and on the key metrics identified in the Levelling Up White Paper Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is one of the areas in the UK that is most in need of levelling-up. In its Levelling Up White Paper Government outlined that at national level the UK SPF will have a particular focus on the following objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
- To increase levels of functional numeracy in the adult population

This invitation to bid is part of the Supporting Local Business Investment priority which has the following objectives:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion building on existing industries and institutions, from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Bringing together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth - enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium –sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity- enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

Interventions:

- E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.

Please note:

- **Cornwall Council reserves the right to allocate more or less funding than the values set out in this invitation to bid.**

Route to Market: Open Call Open Invitation Explain the chosen route to market

In order to identify the projects that will deliver best value for money an open invitation to bid is viewed as the most appropriate route to market. There are a number of organisations within CloS that can deliver the activities described in this initiation form so this opportunity is an open invitation across CloS for organisations and partnerships to apply with collaborative, market-based solutions for the issues identified in this document.

This route to market will enable all relevant and interested organisations in CloS the opportunity to apply for funding to deliver the ambitions outlined in this initiation form. Project(s) must be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds and fully in line with subsidy control rules.

Specific Requirements: Description of specific requirements

Applications should seek a collaborative approach, building on existing government schemes and bringing together businesses and partners from across different sectors, such as Natural England; Forestry Commission; Defra; Environment Agency; the universities; and private sector investments, with the aim of sharing knowledge, expertise and resources. Alignment with schemes being delivered by other public or private bodies should also be demonstrated, such the Environment Agency Newlyn Coastal Research and Development Project; the Defra funded Pathfinder Property Flood Resilience project; or projects funded by the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund, as examples.

Large investments will require the completion and submission of a business case. This should include delivery timescales for the following: infrastructure implementation (to include consideration of relevant permissions and licenses that may be required plus any consultation periods that will need undertaking); recruitment of new staff; release of any associated funds; a demonstration that the project will be delivered and completed by 31st March 2025.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contributing towards the achievement of the specified outputs and outcomes of this programme. There is an acknowledgement that the relationship between flood resilient programmes and the protection of properties is not direct, and that claiming outputs in this area is not an exact science; however, a sensible and justifiable indication of how the project will contribute towards these outputs, and how these targets will be measured and evidenced, will be required.

Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly are committed to ensure that projects supported through the Shared Prosperity Fund deliver green and inclusive economic growth. That the jobs created are well paid, quality jobs, that all our communities are able to access the opportunities available through this fund and that our environment benefits from this economic prosperity. The good growth outcomes have been designed to ensure that all SPF applicants consider the impact of their project and identify what contribution it will make towards good growth. Whilst we accept that not all projects can contribute to every outcome, we expect applicants to demonstrate how they deliver against each specific outcome to give a broad view of the project's overall contribution towards the good growth principles underpinning this program.

Cornwall Council encourages applicants to maximise the leverage of other funding within project design. We recognise not all projects, or applicants will be able to secure match funding, but value for money will be an appraisal consideration. Therefore, we will take the overall funding package for each project, including any match funding, into account. All projects must be compliant with subsidy control rules in order to be funded.

Proposals should also:

1. Set out how people and skills and talent development opportunities are included as part of wider project delivery

2. Demonstrate how activity will complement and not duplicate mainstream, existing and other funded activity, including where there is a statutory or legislative responsibility.
3. Respond to a clearly identified need and clearly describe the need.
4. Not conflict with national policy or local strategies.



Budget & Spend Profile						
Funding Available:	£ 2,900,000		£ 2,500,000		£ 400,000	
	(Total)		(Capital)		(Revenue)	
Minimum Award:	£ 200,000		Maximum Award:		£ 2,900,000	
	23/24		24/25		Total	
Intervention (E)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)	Capital (£m)	Revenue (£m)
E32	0.500	0.150	2.000	0.250	2.500	0.400
Total	0.500	0.150	2.000	0.250	2.500	0.400
Total per year	0.650		2.250		2.900	
Intervention Rate:	<i>Flexible</i>		Target Leverage:		1.450 (Total)	
Spend Start:	01/04/2023		Spend End:		31/03/2025	

Good Growth Principles					
Clean and Green		Business / Economy		Equality/Inclusive growth	
C1 Reduction in CO2 emissions	X	BE1 Increase % of workforce earning real living wage	X	EQ1 Invest in projects that encourage a healthy lifestyle	X
C2 Circularity - reduction in use of virgin raw materials. Recycle reuse principles	X	BE2 Improve productivity in all sectors	<input type="checkbox"/>	EQ2 Reduce gender pay gap	X
G1 Nature recovery	X	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 type="checkbox"/>
G2 Attracting private sector green finance income to Cornwall	X	BE4 Upskilling the workforce	X	EQ4 Maximise opportunity for people with disability and ill health (including mental health)	X
Contribute to the Environmental Growth Strategy for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	X			EQ5 Maximise work based opportunities for those with SEND particularly relating to spectrum disorders and dyslexia	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EQ6 support for the aging population to remain economically active	X

			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	X
			EQ10 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristics and those who do not (Equality Act 2010)	X
			EQ11 Assist individuals with complex barriers to employment to access opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>
			EQ12 Have a positive impact on children and promote and uphold children's rights under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outputs/Outcomes

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

E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions	Output / Outcome	Total for the period 2022/23 – 2024/25
Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion*	Output	200
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion*	Outcome	200

*Output/outcome has changed slightly compared to original outputs/outcomes published by government: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: outputs and outcomes definitions \(2\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-outputs-and-outcomes-definitions-2) 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 %	30 %	10 %
Explanation for criteria weighting			
<p>Strategic alignment will be a key factor in the successful delivery of these projects due to the alignment that is required with other strategic infrastructure projects taking place in the area.</p> <p>As the scheme will be attracting infrastructure projects, detail of the project's deliverability will be closely assessed and viewed as critical to the award of a grant.</p> <p>This scheme is underpinned by good growth principles. The demonstration of nature-based approaches and nature recovery schemes will be weighted favourably, as well as schemes that contribute towards the growth of the green economy.</p> <p>Value for Money is given a lower weighting because nature recovery programs to create flood resilience and mitigate coastal erosion do not embed within normal economic activity; however, the use of this fund to leverage further funding will be seen as significant, therefore value for money will be considered as important within this context.</p>			

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:	31/01/2023	Lead:	Good Growth Team
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