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 ISLES OF SCILLY

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Minutes

Meeting Title:	CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel	
Date:	20 March 2023	
Time:	10am to 12noon	
Location:	Trelawny Room, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY	
Chaired by:	Linda Taylor	
Attending In person	Ann Vandermeulen Rachel Wigglesworth Linda Taylor (<i>Chair</i>) Robin Teverson (<i>Vice Chair</i>) Allister Young Frances Wall	Sarah Newham Lloyd Brina Laura Whyte Malcolm Bell Mark Duddridge Stephen Barnes
Attending online:	Kate Perkin Benjamin Deer Daniel Marcus Kim Conchie Layla Burrows Lindsey Hall	Martin Tucker Steve Double Clare Parnell Emma Hunt George Eustice Scott Mann
Officers:	Emily Kent Jordan Whaley	Claire Hurley Anwen Jones
Apologies:	David Barton, John Peacock, Peter LaBroy, Simon Mould, Stuart Roden, Steve Jermy and Glenn Caplin-Grey	
Supported by:	Debbie Osborne, Governance and Engagement Assistant	

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1	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair welcomed everyone to today's CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel. 	
2	Minutes of last meeting (10 November 2022)	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from 10 November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record. All actions completed. 	
<p>3 Declarations of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
<p>4 Good Growth Programme Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of the presentation to be circulated with minutes. BUS003 has received the largest number of applications followed by COM003. Of the 196 applications received 59 of those have been approved and are now moving forward to contract stage. PowerBI to be used going forward to capture all data. Will have the ability to provide different breakdowns as required. This will be a very useful tool for reporting, including for EPB, PAP and HMG. Once finalised will be shared to members. You can see which projects and organisations have been granted awards through the Shared Prosperity Fund and how they are delivering Good Growth for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly on the Good Growth website. Only projects that have been contracted will be published. EK: Since delivery started in August 2022 around a third of projects have successfully been offered funding with a third of those now fully contracted and in delivery. This equates to a third of the overall SPF allocation. <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB: Would like to see how many firms have been helped rather than by project? JW: Most firms will be mainly supported by delegated funds, but that information could be sought. EK: Level of interest especially in the capital infrastructure has been extensive so need to balance the funding. We expect to see contracting and data visualisations to increase, which will then allow us to report on impact of programme on outputs/outcomes and targets. RW: Dashboard will be very useful to help look at impact of programme, was it a strategic decision in respect of the geographical spread on projects? LT: The main programme and particularly the open calls do not have geographical boundaries, we want to see impact spread right across the county. JW: Isles of Scilly has been identified separately but rest have been split by constituency. There is postcode data available which can be mapped on Power BI where each project sits. We will also be 	<p>DO</p> <p>JW</p>

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<p>targeting some specific areas to increase applications. EK: There is also the £2m Community Capacity and Feasibility Fund which has just been launched. Localism Team supporting those projects that can then potentially come forward for SPF funding. This will help build capacity to ensure better applications for SPF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW: Were there any calls that weren't as popular? JW: COM005 wasn't popular so will be looking to reframe the scope for that allocation. • GE: Those projects that have been rejected were their particular reasons why. Should the team be looking at the scoring criteria (locally and nationally) and maybe revising? EK: We can't be specific on individual projects, but there have been applications where we have seen deliverability and fit challenges with SPF of some projects. That's why the programme was split into different strands, so some projects have been moved into a more appropriate part of the programme or alternatively been offered support to improve their application. Another issue is subsidy control which is still being worked through with applicants and our applications forms have been revised and simplified to support applicants. • GE: Previous programmes have been wider than just skills, have some elements been lost in SPF? EK: Not lost but to confirm the People and Skills element can only be spent in Year 3 but the Good Growth programme does include Community & Place and Support for Local Business which include skills opportunities and are in delivery now. • AV: There is a clear strategy in place but is there anything we can we do to help? CH: We will continue to involve PAP members in sector focused sub groups, we will go into more detail on this later on. • RT: Would find it very useful for future meetings to have reports that show metrics, jobs created, learning points from programme etc. JW: The dashboard once live will be made available; jobs created will be on the key metrics and will help with that reporting. EK: Good Growth programme aims to drive behaviour change and applicants that are not currently paying the Real Living Wage will have to make that commitment to pay the RLW by the end of the project. The Current ERDF Business support programme is coming to an end between June and December 2023. Future funding should dovetail with existing programmes but there will be a 3 month gap around the skills element. We will be trying to fill that gap with external investment and activity. 	

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<p>It should be noted that there is less money going into business support (than the previous EU programmes) and with only 1 year of skills funding some organisations will be given support and be work with to sort that gap and mitigate 'the cliff edge'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB: Sporting organisations being ignored especially in rural areas but a large amount of those are a big part of the community. EK: Sport related activity is tricky given the direct outcomes and economic impact. Community Levelling Up (CLUP) are receiving applications from community organisations which have sport related activities included. This will help broaden participation and improve community engagement. • MD: Collectively we need to signpost support to businesses. With regards to subsidy control how long before programme could be at risk of non delivery? EK: Working hard on timescales of business support provision and trying to mitigate the gap with external commissions. All members need to act as Ambassadors and promote the programme. • GE: Should Health and Wellbeing be picked up in CLUP and not SPF? It's also about attracting the higher paid jobs and right industries. EK: We will be tracking salary levels of all jobs created and with regards to the health and wellbeing question we will pick this up through the Good Growth outcomes. RW: would like to offer assistance/support for promoting health and wellbeing and to formalise an approach moving forward. 	<p>EK</p>
<p>5 Terms of Reference and Panel Purpose recap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CloS) Prosperity Advisory Panel (the Panel) is an advisory group of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Prosperity Board (CloS EPB). The purpose of the Panel is to provide local insight and expertise on economic development issues which will support the CloS EPB to invest the CloS Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) budget to maximise benefits for CloS and in line with the CloS Good Growth SPF Investment Plan. The Panel will help to identify and address both need and opportunity for the SPF, including deliverability within in-year spending targets, and advise on wider economic policy. The Panel will also provide strategic advice on delivery, via review of the yearly commissioning plans. The Panel will provide oversight of programme performance and output, as well as advising the CloS EPB on any unforeseen shocks to the economy and potential responses. The Panel is an advisory group and will make recommendations to the CloS EPB for consideration. 	

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<p>6 Y2 and Y3 Commissioning Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH: Over £9m SPF available for business support providers and we aim to take a report to the May Economic Prosperity Board for decisions and shortly thereafter have the business support providers in place to take referrals from Growth Hub. • A report on the Growth Hub proposals will be taken to the April Economic Prosperity Board for decision. This includes core Growth Hub delivered business support and several pots of funding for small business grants direct to business • In relation to strategic sector development, we will be targeting the 5 LIS priority sectors. • Skills is a big theme running through all sectors. Once in place can look ahead to Year 3 for when the skills funding has been opened up. Members to please note that the presentation will be circulated and within that the appendices breakdown each strand of the full programme. • Rural Prosperity Fund allocation for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly is £5.6m. We have have received verbal assurance of the allocation but currently still waiting for this to be confirmed in writing in order to implement. • Several open invitations are available to bid against on the Good Growth website and delegated grant schemes up and running for small grants for communities and businesses. • Thanks to those members that attended the business support sub group in December, more investment themed sub groups will follow and further discussion under Item 7. <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KC: Is there a specific strand on building properties? CH: BUS003 (<i>Strategic Business, Enterprise and Research & Development Infrastructure</i>) covers business infrastructure and capital funding. • SB: With regards to RPF, what is and how wide is the scope? CH: DEFRA are defining the rural geography of programme but broadly most of CloS is eligible with the exception of a few areas including airfields. • EK: to note £16.5m for Growth Hub of which £10m is small grants direct to business; a further £9m for the provision of business support; £13.85m specifically for RD&I; £18.7m capital investment into workspace; and £4.2m in addition targeted at 	

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<p>the 5 LIS priority sectors to accelerate opportunities. There will be support for all sectors using Growth Hub as the one stop shop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GE: If RPF is a replacement for LAG funding then we should be replicating and learning lessons and assessing what worked and didn't work from those previous programmes. CH: RPF is completely capital but we also have CLUP that smaller rural projects can apply to. 	
<p>7 Working Group Options/Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH: The Good Growth Programme Team are proposing 4 sector specific sub groups (People and Skills; Rural; Community and Place; and Local Business Support) <p>People and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV: a huge amount of work/research already undertaken in relation to the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which could help with the People and Skills strand. CH/AV to have offline discussion. • MT: so much intelligence already in place so should be able to move forward without reinventing the wheel. Happy to join the group. • EH: Also happy to join group. Needs to be a long-term plan put in place and has to be sector blind. Maybe create an emergency fund outside of SPF so we don't lose the skills element. Constant DfE changes may help support but will also challenge the future of skills. • CH: we are looking post March 2025 and this will be discussed with EPB and PAP members. • RT: Green Skills now quite extensive and shouldn't be forgotten. Sarah Houghton has now joined the Local Nature Partnership Board. She is the Vice Principal for Land based education at Cornwall College and has worked within further education and the land-based sector as a senior manager for a number of years and specialises in curriculum development, quality improvement and change management. She would be a useful contact. RT to provide contact details. • KC: We all have a role on ensuring all sectors are involved and incorporated into programme but not forgetting those businesses that are already delivering. EK: Growth Hub Team will put out those messages and ensure more promotion. Will be launched April/May 2023. AV: Could also use those mailing lists already in existence for promotion. 	<p>CH/AV</p> <p>RT</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning Plans for People & Skills will go to Economic Prosperity Board in July 2023 to ensure projects are identified, contracted and ready to deliver from 1st April 2024. <p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting Government approval of Rural Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Addendum • £5.6m to be commissioned in lined with RPF Investment Plan Addendum • £1m small grants for rural business via Good Growth Hub • £4.6m open invitation for projects to come forward to deliver strengthened community infrastructure and assets • Commissioning Plans will go to Economic Prosperity Board in April 2023 to ensure funding is made available locally as soon as Government approves Investment Plan Addendum <p>Community and Place / Local Business Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the majority of the Good Growth Programme commissioned, it would be good to get the Advisory Panel's view on how best to involve the panel in checking delivery of the Good Growth programme against the intentions set out in the Good Growth Investment Plan. This will be important in terms of any recommissioning as well as building a future pipeline of activity: CH proposes the following sub-groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Community & Place Sub Group</i>: Community Levelling Up; Community Capacity & Facilitation; Community & Place main programme ○ <i>Supporting Local Business Sub Group</i>: Strategic Sector Development; Business Support ○ <i>People & Skills Sub-Group</i> ○ <i>Rural Sub-Group</i> • CH: Engagement and Good Growth Principles will be a standing item for all the sub groups. <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LT: Timelines of when the sub groups will take place. CH: People and Skills (early June), Rural (early May), Community & Place/Local Business support (late May). • CH: Request volunteers to put their name forward for each group by the end of the week to Debbie in the Good Growth Team. Will be informal so will take place virtually but can accommodate in person if necessary. An email will be sent to all Panel members 	

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	<p>to allow those not in attendance today to also put their names forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD: Should larger businesses be spoken to now given their current programmes. EK: they haven't been a targeted audience in the past so will look at that as a workstream. We can prepare a summary that can be circulated to partners and used in discussions. FW: Are there any other funding initiatives that are being looked at (locally, nationally and internationally)? CH: it would be useful to know what is out there so we will look at that. 	
8	<p>Any other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LT: Thanks to those that have written in to support the Devolution Deal, this is a massive opportunity for Cornwall, now need to convince the elected members. AJ: Subsidy Control concerns are repeated across the country. Just keep feeding back to government colleagues. In terms of delivery have been hearing that some areas are struggling with contract/spend but CloS seems to be doing OK. Currently waiting for report on the full picture. AV: Is resource in place to run business support programmes? EK: Cornwall Development Company have now been transferred in house and are currently planning to ensure provision in place. 	
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to the next meeting, we are proposing early September. We have identified 2 dates so for this meeting so please complete the doodle poll so we can ascertain which one would have majority attendance and then it will be confirmed in diary. 	DO

Meeting finished at 12noon.