

Minutes

Meeting Title:	CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel	
Date:	11 September 2023	
Time:	10am to 12noon	
Location:	MS Teams	
Chaired by:	Linda Taylor	
Attending online:	Robin Teverson (Vice Chair) Stephen Barnes Malcolm Bell Clare Parnell Steve Jermy Frances Wall Lloyd Brina (Observer) Kate Perkins Steve Double MP	Sarah Newham Rachel Beadle (for Scott Mann) Kim Conchie Lindsey Hall Layla Burrows George Eustice MP Martin Tucker Lisa Sargeant (for Sheryll Murray)
Officers:	Emily Kent	Claire Hurley
Apologies:	Members: Allister Young, Benjamin Deer, David Barton, Emma Hunt, John Bessell, Peter LaBroy, Rachel Wigglesworth, Sheryll Murray and Simon Mould Officers: Glenn Caplin-Grey, Jordan Whaley, Katie Dalsgaard and Anwen Jones	
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 (20 March 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed that the minutes from 20 March 2023 be brought back to the next meeting for sign off once the questions within the 	

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<p>minutes have been responded to by the Good Growth Team. All actions completed or covered on today's agenda.</p>	
<p>3 Declarations of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malcolm Bell in relation to any relevant conversations on Visit Cornwall's bid to the SPF Good Growth Programme, 	
<p>4 Sub-Group feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will be reminded as presented at the last Panel meeting on 20 March 2023 it was proposed that 4 sector specific sub groups (People and Skills; Rural; Community and Place; and Local Business Support) be pulled together with PAP members putting their names forward to sit on each of the groups. <p>People and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government confirmed that the People and Skills strand could be funded in Year 2 so the sub group discussions were reprioritised and the People and Skills Sub Group was implemented sooner and took place on 21 April 2023. Was a very useful meeting and covered activity wider than just skills. Skills to be embedded across the whole programme and the feedback received was to ensure all bids included those skills elements. People Hub presented their single point of contact model for advice and guidance for careers and training. Picked up feedback on construction supply chain and now looking to deliver a Construction Skills Hub. <p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following Government approval of Rural Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Addendum, the Rural Sub Group took place on 5 May 2023. As a reminder £5.6m to be commissioned in lined with RPF Investment Plan Addendum (£1m small grants for rural business via Good Growth Hub and £4.6m open invitation for projects to come forward to deliver strengthened community infrastructure and assets). More information on the open invitation can be found here. Closing date for applications is Monday 9 October 2023. In consultation with PAP, the engagement strategy will ensure that rural is covered with additional engagement in North and South East Cornwall. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will also be a dedicated Growth Hub Rural Connector. • In relation to existing rural funding offers, this programme will complement not duplicate. • Good Growth Programme Team would like to give thanks to those PAP colleagues for acting as ambassadors for programme and for giving up their time to sit on the sub groups. • Now in delivery phase and will be looking ahead to future engagement and evaluation so will be asking PAP colleagues to input when appropriate. <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LT: Can the name of the Growth Hub Rural Connector be shared with PAP colleagues along with a brief on the rural definition in the programme and where projects are coming from geographically. CH: Will circulate contact details of the Growth Hub Rural Connector along with how the Growth Hub plans to engage and target the rural sector. • GE: At last meeting asked for lessons learned from previous funding programmes to be taken on board. CH: The CAP areas were involved with CLUP and CCF so working right across the county along with the islands. We are ensuring additional engagement in main programme and working with Town and Parish Council's to encourage further applications. • RT: Are any Cornish businesses excluded from applying to the Rural open call? CH: DEFRA have issued a map and broadly the majority of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly businesses are eligible. Those that are ineligible can still apply for main programme and will be signposted as appropriate via the Growth Hub. 	<p>CH</p>
<p>5 Programme Overview (Presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 completed, now embarking on Year 2/3 delivery. • The Panel were taken through a presentation prepared by the Good Growth Programme Team. Claire Hurley presented and highlighted the key points, with particular reference to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budget ○ Key Dates ○ Overview and Milestones ○ Programme reach to August 2023 ○ Commitments (will be fully allocated by end of 2023) ○ Contracted (all projects once contracted will be published here) 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spend to August 2023 ● Team are currently revisiting guidance on reporting so should help with future spend reports. ● Cornwall Council have written to Government to ask for consideration of an extension post 2025, currently awaiting a response but remain hopeful. <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CP: Is the time it takes from initial expression of interest to contract being recorded and monitored? CH: Yes, all timescales are being monitored. Team is working with all applicants to ensure information required is received in a timely manner and are supporting all applicants through contract negotiations. ● RB: Given that North Cornwall so far has the lowest number of applications will the additional support be given to the applicants in the area? Also is the £2.8m just North Cornwall or does that include some of the county wide projects? CH: Specific “local” workshops/surgeries are being arranged for those areas to encourage applicants to come forward and be signposted appropriately. With regards to the specific North Cornwall data that would have to be checked. ● KC: Have the Subsidy Control issues been resolved? Also how is the business infrastructure call going? CH: The £18.7m Strategic Business, Enterprise and Research & Development Infrastructure (BUS003) was one of the earlier open calls with various review points and has been the most popular call. Has been a variety of projects approved and contracted and is now fully committed. With regards to subsidy control, was new to the SPF landscape but BEIS have been guiding the team through and now more confident on dealing with subsidy control issues. ● GE: Noted that a number of projects are related to feasibility studies. Given that the programme is over subscribed is there anything notable on any of the rejected projects or is it the criteria? CH: One factor is delivery of major capital infrastructure projects within timeframe. Some projects were just not well developed or investment ready. Do have a mixed bag of feasibility studies from main programme with some high value applications with ambitious projects as end project. Have been looking at delegated schemes for the smaller amounts for community groups with the main programme having the larger amounts for schemes/projects. ● FW: University of Exeter were successful in their application but 	<p>CH</p>

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<p>would have been helpful if other models were used to help those smaller companies wishing to bid. CH: We are paying some applicants upfront but is a big risk for Cornwall Council as accountable body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LT: EPB concern is that only £30m has been approved so far. CH: monitoring is key and are working closely with applicants on any upfront/arrears payments. Support and help is being given to all applicants and resourcing is being increased within team on contracting. • SB: How many jobs have been created or saved? CH: Assessing against all targets and outputs but forecasts are looking good. All being cross referenced and evidenced against guidance. Power BI dataset report can be produced so will respond accordingly. • KP: Would be useful to have a percentage breakdown on funding to each sector (VCSE, private, statutory etc). CH: Following EPB on 20 September the data will be more up to date so can do some further analysis and bring back to Panel. 	<p>CH</p> <p>CH</p>
<p>6 Recommissioning Options (Presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel were taken through a presentation prepared by the Good Growth Programme Team. Claire Hurley presented and highlighted the key points, with particular reference to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some areas with less demand such as connectivity or where harder to deliver in the timescale such as COM006a Community Connectivity & Digital Inclusion and COM007b Cost of living- Community measures, schemes and programmes to improve energy efficiency (including green retrofit) and the creation and improvement to local green/blue space. ○ In other areas very strong demand: BUS003 Strategic Business, Enterprise and Research & Development Infrastructure, COM002 Cultural Events and Talent Programme and COM003 Culture/Heritage-led Regeneration and Skills ○ A recommendation is going to EPB on 20 September that unallocated funding is applied to areas of greater demand where there are reserve list projects given the fact there is insufficient time to run any further calls. This can be a local decision and will be no need to report back to Government. ○ Adjustments: Re-opening revised call for business support at a lower threshold following approval of full suite of support 	

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<p>and remaining funding and also lower the threshold to £100k of Rural open call to encourage more applications. This will allow a more logical and practical way of ensuring all money spent by deadline.</p> <p>Panel questions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LT: Will those previous applicants be contacted to let them know about the adjustment? CH: Yes the team will be looking at previous expressions of interest that weren't previously ready. Will also be undertaking some further promotion; Engagement events, newsletters, website and social media. Also working with Community Link Officers and MP local constituency offices to promote. 	
<p>7 Evaluation Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although we are not obliged, we have opted to embark on a programme level evaluation with Wavehill Ltd now commissioned to provide an independently led evaluation. Scope is broad and will also be looking at processes and systems. PAP members may be asked to take part in any consultation interviews. 	
<p>8 Any other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LT: would like to give thanks to the Good Growth Team on the efficient organisation of the programme. • LT: Anything that members wish to add to future agendas then please let Debbie in the Good Growth Programme Team know. 	
<p>9 Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tbc 	DO

Meeting finished at 11.25am.