

## Newsletter 48: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008

This is part of a fortnightly series of newsletters that will help explain the process and progression of the Convergence Programmes for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The newsletters will contain the most up to date information about Convergence as it evolves over the coming months. [New information will appear in blue.](#)

The Convergence Programmes are investing in a higher value, more knowledge based economy. The table below summarises the value of Convergence investments as at 5 September 2008.

### CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES' POSITION AS AT 5 SEPTEMBER 2008

All monetary figures are £ Million	TOTAL	ERDF Programme	ESF Programme
Programme budget	£500.2m	£347.0m	£153.2m
<b>Value of investments contracted</b>	£71.8m	£21.8m	£50.0m
<b>Value of investments endorsed (not contracted)</b>	19.3.m	£4.0m	£15.3m
Actual <b>project spend</b> to date	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0
<b>N+2 spend target by end 2009</b>	<b>£56.0m</b>	<b>£30.0m</b>	<b>£12.9m</b>

NB. The Programmes' budgets are given in euros in the European Regional Development Fund Convergence Operational Programme and the European Social Fund Framework for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Due to changes in the exchange rate the value in pounds sterling may vary during the life of the Programmes.

#### GLOSSARY

- Contracted:** Contracts signed by both the applicant and the organisations managing the Programmes (South West Regional Development Agency for ERDF and Department for Work and Pensions for ESF).
- Endorsed:** Investments awaiting final exchange of contracts.
- Spend:** Money claimed from the European Union by projects for work in progress.
- N+2 spend target:** The amount of money the Programmes must spend on a yearly basis. The first target is for 2009.

## **ERDF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED**

The following European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Convergence investments have been contracted.

Truro Falmouth Branch Line	£4.67 million investment in improved public transport giving access to work and the Combined Universities in Cornwall at Falmouth, Penryn and Truro. Details are available at <a href="http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1400.htm">www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1400.htm</a> .
Peninsula Dental School	More than £4.7 million investment to help develop a state-of-the-art dental education and research facility in Truro. Details are available at <a href="http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1417.htm">www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1417.htm</a> .
Business Support	Specialist business support to boost business productivity and competitiveness on a national and international level and to help increase the economic prosperity of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Support will be accessed through Business Link and will receive investment of £4.6 million from the ERDF Convergence Programme. Further details can be found at <a href="http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1430.htm">www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1430.htm</a> .
Watson-Marlow Pumps Group	Falmouth pump manufacturer Watson-Marlow has announced a £7.3 million expansion having secured £1 million of investment from the Convergence Programme and the South West Regional Development Agency. The company is building a new silicone tubing plant to support its core pump business and a growing global market for food, beverage and biopharm tubing. Further details can be found at <a href="http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1433.html">www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1433.html</a> .

### **Strategic Investment Frameworks**

Definition	Strategic Investment Frameworks (SIFs) are also being developed. They provide a framework and justification for potential Convergence investments in specific areas in Cornwall. Proposed individual investments within the SIF will then be appraised and if suitable endorsed for investment. To date one SIF has been established.
Camborne, Pool and Redruth	The Strategic Investment Framework for Camborne, Pool and Redruth provides a framework for investments to increase the number and range of jobs, support business growth, stimulate innovation and enterprise and to boost skills levels.

## **ESF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED**

European Social Fund Convergence investments which have been contracted are described below.

### **Investments Managed By Jobcentre Plus**

Cornwall Works Plus	This investment aims to help unemployed people overcome barriers to work by improving their skills and employability.
Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise	An investment to provide inspirational and high quality developmental experiences and sustainable work for jobless people through social enterprises.
Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities	This investment aims to provide a pathway to sustainable employment for people with learning disabilities.

**Further information** More details about all three Cornwall Works investments can be found at [www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1422.html](http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1422.html).

### **Investments Managed by the Learning and Skills Council**

The following investments aiming to raising skills levels have been contracted by the Learning and Skills Council.

<b>Partnership Works</b>	The aim of this activity is to enhance Cornwall Works and Skills for Jobs opportunities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It will provide employability skills help prepare adults to be job ready.
<b>Equator</b>	This project aims to raise aspiration and participation levels of people who, because of their minority status, face multiple barriers to accessing education and employment opportunities.
<b>Vocational Routeways</b>	Vocational Routeways has been developed to help create sustainable economies and communities by linking the employment needs of local employers with unemployed people within disadvantaged communities. It aims to deliver tailored vocational training and support packages that will equip participants to enter employment.
<b>Key Sectors</b>	This partnership project works with 13 sector organisations, the Skills Brokerage Service and providers to engage businesses in workforce development activity.
<b>Capacity Building Works</b>	This investment is being made to enhance the ability of voluntary/community sector organisations and social enterprises to contribute to the Convergence Programme. It will carry out organisational 'health checks', encourage employees to gain skills for life qualifications and promote volunteering.
<b>The Progressive Isles</b>	The Progressive Isles investment focuses on enabling individuals, organisations and businesses to fulfil their ambitions and potential on the Isles of Scilly by offering Level 2, Level 3 and Basic Skills qualifications.
<b>Workforce led Programme</b>	Eleven partners will combine to address the development of individuals within the workforce. Through raising aspirations, widening access to training and empowering individuals to contribute at higher levels, employees will be more productive and have the skills to contribute to workforce success.
<b>Skills for Work</b>	The programme will deliver Continuing Professional Development training to the Skills for Life workforce. It also aims to encourage more people to take Skills for Life qualifications.
<b>Freestyle - Best Start for Young People</b>	This investment will provide activities and specialist support for young people aged 14-19 years within the target groups who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming so. It will help them to engage in learning in an informal setting with individually tailored learning plans with a view to moving them towards employment, training or further education.
<b>Freestyle - Equality and Diversity</b>	This project aims to provide activities and specialist support to young people within disadvantaged and hard to reach groups to remove barriers to learning to help them engage with and remain in learning. It also aims to raise awareness of equality and diversity issues.
<b>Freestyle - Extended Learner Fund</b>	The Extended Learner Fund will provide financial assistance for a broad range of target groups to make it possible for them to continue their learning.

## **Investments Managed by Government Office for the South West**

The Graduate Placement Scheme is the first element of Higher Education investment contracted by the Convergence Programmes. Other investments in research, enterprise, higher level skills and raising aspirations are being developed.

**Graduate Placement Scheme** This project, which will place graduates with businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, has received approval for a £4.25 million investment from the European Social Fund Convergence Programme. Further details are available at [www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1418.htm](http://www.objectiveone.com/client/media/media-1418.htm).

## **UPDATE FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH WEST, MANAGING BODY FOR THE ESF CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME**

**ESF Convergence already helping people** Both the Department for Work and Pensions and the Learning and Skills Council have now completed the contracting process with their Prime Providers who will now be setting up delivery arrangements with their sub contractors. The first European Social Fund supported participants – both employed and economically inactive – are already getting the help they need to acquire new skills and overcome barriers to entering the workplace. Convergence lead providers are setting up joint working groups to share best practice and to help manage the Programme.

**Additional ESF investment** The applications for the four remaining Higher Education themes (research, enterprise, higher level skills and raising aspirations) are currently being approved by Government Office for the South West. The next challenge will be to allocate the additional ESF funding resulting from recent exchange rate gains, as the Euro strengthens against pounds sterling, and to get that money out to providers as soon as possible.

**Embedding equality and sustainability** The European Social Fund is now represented on both the cross cutting theme groups who will be keeping a close eye on how providers will embed equality and diversity and sustainable development into their delivery.

**Celebrating success** Momentum on publicity activity is also gathering; photos of the Learning and Skills Council and the Department for Work and Pensions being presented with their co-financing plaques were shown on the ESF national website ([www.esf.gov.uk](http://www.esf.gov.uk)). There have also been a number of celebration events publicising the success of ESF in Objective One and we look forward to being able to circulate more good news stories as people start to benefit from the ESF provision rolling out across Cornwall and Scilly.

**What happens next?** The next priority for Government Office for the South West, as the managing agent in the region, will be to initiate activity around the 'Innovative Actions and Transnationality' themes and to ensure the Community Grants scheme is put in place before the end of the year. We are also starting to focus on monitoring – the first visits took place in August - and developing an evaluation strategy so that the impact of ESF on the people of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and its economy can be measured from the start.

Sarah Beeson  
Head of European Social Fund  
Government Office for the South West

## **RELATED EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES**

### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND**

- Accessing the Rural Programme** The Rural Development Programme can be accessed through the Rural Development Gateway which provides advice about project proposals. They can be contacted by telephoning 0845 600 9966 or at [www.sw-ruralgateway.info](http://www.sw-ruralgateway.info). For more information please see [www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm), [www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/post2006\\_faq.htm#Q4](http://www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/post2006_faq.htm#Q4) and [www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafrd/introduction.shtm](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafrd/introduction.shtm).
- Consultancy service** The Rural Development Programme is investing in a new consultancy service, REG 1 to 1, offering a review of farms' business needs and tailored advice, which is provided by the Rural Enterprise Gateway. For further information, please call 0845 600 9966 or visit [www.sw-ruralgateway.info](http://www.sw-ruralgateway.info).

### **EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND PROGRAMME FOR THE UK**

- European Fisheries Fund Programme** The European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme for the UK has to be agreed by the European Commission before investment can begin. It has been submitted for approval. For further information please see [www.mfa.gov.uk](http://www.mfa.gov.uk) and [www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/grants.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/grants.htm).
- Expressions of interest sought** The Marine Fisheries Agency is seeking expressions of interest from those who would like to access the Fisheries Programme. Further details are available at [www.mfa.gov.uk/grants/grants-eff.htm](http://www.mfa.gov.uk/grants/grants-eff.htm).

**More detailed information about Convergence, links to key organisations and websites can be found in the 'Convergence' section of the website [www.objectiveone.com](http://www.objectiveone.com).**

**Information is also available from the Partnership Office's helpline on 0800 028 0120.**