

Newsletter 52: 31st October 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 31 October 2008.

CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES' POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2008

All monetary figures are £ Million	TOTAL	ERDF Programme	ESF Programme
Programme budget	500.20m	347.00m	153.20m
Value of investments contracted	90.30m	21.80m	68.50m
Value of investments endorsed (but not contracted)	18.40m	17.90m	0.50m
Actual project spend to date	0.07m	0.07m	0.00m
N+2 spend target by end 2009	43.20m	30.00m	13.2m

NB. The Programmes' budgets are given in Euros in the European Regional Development Fund Convergence Operational Programme and the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England and Gibraltar. The pound sterling figures above are estimates, as at 31/10/08, and will vary due to changes in the exchange rate 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.

NEWS

Business Support – call for expressions of interest – The South West Regional Development Agency is seeking organisations who can deliver business support packages for the ERDF Convergence Programme. The first stage in this process is inviting interested organisations to make an expression of interest. Further details can be found at

www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/european-prog/open-call-for-expres.shtm

ERDF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED

ERDF Convergence investments Information about other contracted European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Convergence investments in the Truro-Falmouth branch line, the Peninsula Dental School, business support and Watson Marlow Pumps Ltd can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FRAMEWORKS ESTABLISHED

Definition Strategic Investment Frameworks (SIFs) provide a framework and justification for potential Convergence investments in specific areas in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Proposed individual investments within the SIFs will then be appraised and, if suitable, endorsed for investment.

Established investment frameworks The latest Strategic Investment Framework to be established is for Newquay and St Columb Major. Information about the SIFs which have been established for Bodmin and Camborne, Pool and Redruth can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

Proposed frameworks Strategic Investment Frameworks are being developed for: Falmouth, Penzance and the Isles of Scilly, St Austell and the Clay Country, and Truro.

ESF CONVERGENCE INVESTMENTS CONTRACTED

Investments managed by Department for Work and Pensions/Jobcentre Plus

Helping people into work Three ESF Convergence investments to help people overcome barriers to work have been contracted: Cornwall Works Plus, Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise and Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities. For details, please refer to www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

Investments managed by the Learning and Skills Council

Investing in skills A range of ESF Convergence investments focussing on raising skills levels have been contracted by the Learning and Skills Council. Details can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm and www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthWest/.

Investments managed by Government Office for the South West

Higher Education investments

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. More detailed information can be found at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm.

PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

ESF CONVERGENCE PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS EVENT – Carolyn Webster, European Programmes Manager, Jobcentre Plus

ESF Convergence event

“Jobcentre Plus held a European Social Fund (ESF) Convergence event for partners and stakeholders on Friday 24 October at Kingsley Village. The aim of the event was to ensure that partners understand what is available through the Department for Work and Pensions co-financing programme in order to make linkages between ESF delivery and the wider regeneration activity in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Developing linkages

“The idea was to bring partners and ESF delivery organisations together for a series of discussions, case studies and inter-active sessions designed to start a conversation about ongoing linkages and joint working. The day was captured in photographs by ESF participants from the Real Ideas Organisation (RIO), which is a delivery partner within the Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise programme. Photographs from the event will be made available at www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/recentnews.htm in due course.

Potential for investments to work together

“There is considerable potential for ESF to support, and be supported by, delivery through the Local Area Agreement, the European Regional Development Fund Convergence Programme (in particular the Strategic Investment Frameworks) and the transition to the new Cornwall Council, to name a few. Ensuring the investment programmes and other initiatives join up is really important in achieving the best possible outcomes for the people, communities and economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Positive feedback

“Over 100 people attended from a variety of organisations including members of the Programme Monitoring Committee, Cornwall Strategic Partnership, Government Office for the South West, the South West Regional Development Agency, the Learning and Skills Council, Cornwall County Council and a range of people leading delivery strands within the Local Area Agreement. Feedback was excellent, with all attendees being very positive about the provision that is in place and how they can engage with it. For more information please contact Carolyn Webster, European Programmes Manager at Jobcentre Plus, carolyn.webster@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk.”

Carolyn Webster
European Programmes Manager
Jobcentre Plus

RELATED EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND

Vocational Training Scheme rolled out The Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), run by the Rural Business School, Duchy College, is now up and running across the South West. Due to the previous success of the scheme, run since 2000 in Cornwall, it has been extended to include Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucester and Wiltshire. It provides training for people working in farming and forestry, making up to the minute research and best practice available at a local level. For more information please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485.

South West Healthy Livestock Initiative Bluetongue is a disease of cattle and sheep that can be devastating to affected herds and flocks which, in turn, can inflict a serious economic blow to livestock producers and the farming industry. As part of the South West Healthy Livestock Initiative, Duchy College's Rural Business School will be delivering a Bluetongue awareness project aiming to inform farmers about the condition and its economic consequences. The first of a series of training events is planned for 2009 and a website is to be launched. For further information please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485.

Accessing the Rural Programme The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 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. For more information please see www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm, www.objectiveone.com/O1htm/01-convergence/post2006_faq.htm#Q4 and www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafrd/introduction.shtm.

EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND PROGRAMME FOR THE UK

Fisheries Operational Programme approved The European Commission has now agreed the UK Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly there is over £7m available to 2013 for projects which help secure a sustainable and profitable fishing industry. The scheme is now open for applications and facilitation service is provided by Steve Bailey on 07876 035733, 01503 240384 or s_bailey@seafish.co.uk. Further details are at www.mfa.gov.uk.

More detailed information about Convergence, links to key organisations and websites can be found in the 'Convergence' section of the website www.objectiveone.com.

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