

Newsletter 61: 5th June 2009



This is part of a monthly 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 be underlined.

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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 June 2009.

Convergence Programme position as at 5 June 2009

All monetary figures are £ million	TOTAL	ERDF Programme	ESF Programme
Programme budget	551.70m	398.50m	153.20m
Value of investments contracted	143.88m	69.30m	74.58m
Value of investments endorsed (but not contracted)	31.00m	26.70m	4.30m
Actual project spend to date	13.28m	12.65m	0.63m
N+2 spend target by end 2009	34.19m	21.00m	13.19m

NB. The Programmes' budgets are set in Euros so the pound sterling figures are estimates and will vary with 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.



Partner's perspective

“What about the future of our local towns and their hinterlands?”

Richard Bayly, Deputy Regional Director Economy, Growth and Regeneration, Government Office for the South West

Looking ahead

“As we prioritise investment into growth of our key towns (like Truro and Camborne, Pool and Redruth), the question often arises as to what will be the future role for the medium sized settlements across Cornwall (like Liskeard and Helston). At a time when the economic recession is calling us to question how growth has taken place in the past, I feel optimistic that our smaller and market towns have a potentially bright future.

Vital role

“In a world where there is an ever increasing emphasis on reducing our carbon use and planning for climate change, both the key towns and the medium sized towns will have a vital role for those who live in and around them. They will need to provide readily accessible quality day to day services, jobs and shopping, minimising the need to travel. Alongside this, the key towns will continue to develop as centres of excellence for those specialist services which are not required on a regular basis. Advances in IT will continue to improve our access to goods, services, ideas and markets, all of which are good news for businesses in Cornwall.

High quality environment

“By ensuring the smaller towns retain and develop a high quality environment, both natural and built, they can remain attractive to private sector investment in housing and employment, albeit on a smaller scale than the high profile expansion we expect to see in the designated key towns.

Pursuing the vision

“Leadership for developing and pursuing the vision for each place will come from within the community itself and link into the wider development plans for the region as a whole. Cornwall has improved the way the needs of business are taken into account in local development plans, by ensuring the voice of business is heard and proactively planning for business growth.”

Richard Bayly
Deputy Regional Director Economy, Growth and Regeneration
Government Office for the South West

News

Cornwall Works WISE Awards

The 2009 Cornwall Works WISE Awards - an annual celebration recognising excellence in employment and skills activity in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly - have been praised by the Local Government minister, Sadiq Khan.

The awards ceremony was timed to fit as closely as possible to Europe Day (May 9th) to highlight the important role that the European Social Fund (at present through the ESF Convergence Programme) is playing in employment, skills and

training and innovation across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Winners this year include a single mother of three, formerly unemployed, who is now a volunteer supporting workless people; a nationally acclaimed initiative to reduce poverty; a project to help those recovering from mental health problems by offering them work producing a magazine and a graduate who has helped a company grow by 350%. Professor Keith Atkinson, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter, also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his key role in the creation of the Combined Universities in Cornwall.

> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/media-releases.php
(select media releases dated 08.05.09)

Knowledge Escalator

An initiative to encourage businesses and Higher Education institutes in Cornwall to work more closely together has been approved for more than half a million pounds worth of investment from the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Convergence Programme, matched by £167,000 from the South West RDA. It is part of a South West wide initiative – the Knowledge Escalator – to increase the region's Higher Education institutions' capacity to engage with businesses. Overall, the aim is to support business growth and stimulate new enterprise.

> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/media-releases.php
(select media release dated 12.05.09)

Official opening of the Truro Falmouth branch line

The ERDF Convergence Programme's first investment - improvements to Penryn Railway Station to double the number of train services between Falmouth, Penryn and Truro – is now operational. An opening ceremony on 18 May marked the completion of the passing loop which allows trains to pass each other at Penryn. The enhanced rail services on the Maritime Line strengthen transport links between Cornwall's major academic and economic centres.

> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/media-releases.php
(select media release dated 13.05.09)

Launch of SUCCESS courses

Truro and Penwith College has launched a new brand of SUCCESS courses which are short university credited courses designed to enhance skills and knowledge in specific topic areas. The courses, supported by ESF Convergence investment, cover a variety of subjects with new courses being introduced regularly in response to demand, for example Employment Law and Human Resource Management.

> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/media-releases.php
(select media release dated 19.05.09)

ERDF Convergence investments contracted

Convergence investments to date include:

Truro Falmouth branch line

Work to install a passing loop to double the number of trains between Falmouth and Truro has now been completed.

Watson Marlow Bredel

Falmouth pump manufacturer Watson-Marlow has secured £1 million of investment from the ERDF Convergence Programme and the South West Regional Development Agency as part of a £3.4m investment to build a new silicone tubing plant to support its core pump business and a growing global market for food, beverage and biopharm tubing. This construction is part of a wider £7.3m expansion being undertaken by the company.

Pool Innovation Centre	An investment of almost £9 million from the ERDF Convergence Programme has been agreed for the creation of an innovation centre in Pool which will provide high quality, flexible managed workspace to start up businesses with potential for growth and high productivity across all sectors. An additional £2.9 million will be provided by the South West Regional Development Agency.
Higher Education expansion in Penwith	Truro and Penwith College is to receive a £4 million investment from the ERDF Convergence Programme as part of an £8 million improvement scheme. The expansion is being led by Truro and Penwith College and will involve new and refurbished buildings. It is part of a £32 million master plan to support Further and Higher Education in Penwith.
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.
Peninsula Dental School	More than £4.7 million is being invested by the ERDF Convergence Programme to help develop a state-of-the-art dental education and research facility in Truro.
Bodmin Masterplan	Convergence is investing in the development of a Vision and a Masterplan for Bodmin which will guide future developments in the town. Both will link with the Strategic Investment Framework for Bodmin which outlines potential Convergence investments for the area. For further information, please see > www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments > www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence (click Strategic Investment Frameworks)
Globalisation	This £2 million project, which includes £1.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund, aims to support 193 businesses with high growth potential in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to trade internationally. It will also be targeted at encouraging foreign business investment into the area. For information please contact Business Link on tel 0845 600 9966 or email enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk . > www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments (select Globalisation)
Finance for Business	The South West Loans Fund has received approval for £3.75 million investment from the European Regional Development Fund Convergence Programme and £1.25 million from the South West Regional Development Agency. It will deliver Small Loans for Business (up to £50,000) and Finance for Business (up to £250,000), focussing on businesses which have growth potential but have not been able to secure all their finance requirements from the private sector. Interested businesses should contact Business Link on tel 0845 600 9966 or email enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk . > www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments (select Finance for Business)
ERDF Convergence investments	Details of all European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Convergence investments can be found at > www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments/

Strategic Investment Frameworks

Potential investments Potential Convergence investments in specific locations have been outlined for St Austell, St Blazey and the Clay Area; Newquay and St Columb Major; Bodmin; and Camborne, Pool and Redruth. Others are being developed for Falmouth, Truro and Penzance and the Isles of Scilly.

> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence
(click Strategic Investment Frameworks)

ESF Convergence investments contracted

Investments managed by the Learning and Skills Council

The Learning and Skills Council's ESF Convergence investments to date are as follows:

Workforce investments

FLAG (Families Learning and Growing)	FLAG offers opportunities for parents and children to learn together, improving literacy, numeracy and IT skills, building self confidence and motivation for further learning.
Higher Education Interventions	This investment will provide working people with opportunities to gain higher level qualifications. It will widen access to higher level skills training and provide progression pathways, thereby raising workforce skills.
Rural Land Based	Focussing on the rural land based industries this investment aims to widen participation in relevant vocational, management and leadership qualifications.
Cornwall Clusters	Cornwall Clusters aims to develop sustainable groups that are responsive to local circumstances, promote the benefits of training to employers and upskill the workforce. It is particularly focussed on Newquay, Penwith, Camborne, Pool and Redruth, St Austell and the Clay Country and North Cornwall/Caradon.
Workforce Cornwall	Designed to improve the knowledge and skills of people working with children and young people in Cornwall, Workforce Cornwall aims to help transform services and working practices to improve outcomes for children and young people.
Embark	Embark focuses on raising aspirations and participation levels among employees in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, who, as members of minority groups, face multiple barriers to education and employment opportunities. It also aims to increase employers' awareness of the needs of the target groups.
Key Sectors	This partnership project works with 13 sector organisations, the Skills Brokerage Service and providers to engage businesses in workforce development activity.
Capacity Building Works	Aiming to enhance the ability of voluntary/community sector organisations and social enterprises to contribute to the Convergence Programme, Capacity Building Works will carry out organisational 'health checks', encourage employees to gain skills for life qualifications and promote volunteering.

The Progressive Isles	The Progressive Isles 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.
Workforce led Programme	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.
Skills for Work	Leading to Skills for Life qualifications, this programme will provide training for adults in English, Maths and English for speakers of other languages.
	Investments for Young People
Freestyle - Best Start for Young People	Providing activities and specialist support for young people aged 14-19 years who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming so, this investment will help young people engage in learning in an informal setting with individually tailored learning plans with a view to moving towards employment, training or further education.
Freestyle - Equality and Diversity	Freestyle - Equality and Diversity aims to provide activities and specialist support to young people within disadvantaged and hard to reach groups to remove barriers to learning and help them engage with and remain in learning. Raising awareness of equality and diversity issues is also an objective of this investment.
Freestyle - Extended Learner Fund	The purpose of the Extended Learner Fund is to provide financial assistance for a broad range of target groups to make it possible for them to continue their learning.
Involve	'Involve' will build the capacity of the Voluntary Community Sector to work effectively with young people and workless adults by offering them exciting, innovative and individually tailored programmes designed to enable them to move into mainstream provision, training or employment as appropriate.
ACE	ACE is investing in developing and delivering vocational teaching and learning resources and personalised programmes, enabling young people who are not in education, employment or training to access appropriate learning, training and/or employment. The project aims to make learning relevant, to raise aspirations, maximise potential, build confidence and embed lifelong learning and progression.
	Investments for Adults
Partnership Works	Focussing on enhancing Cornwall Works and Skills for Jobs opportunities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Partnership Works will provide employability skills to help prepare adults to be job ready.
Equator	The objective of this project is to raise the aspirations and participation levels of people who, because of their minority status, face multiple barriers to education and employment opportunities.
Vocational Routeways	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 that will equip participants to enter employment.

Higher Education Routeways	<p>A Higher Education Community Development Worker will work within disadvantaged communities to encourage unemployed individuals to undertake higher level training. Practical and financial support will be available to address barriers and support progression to further training and employment.</p> <p>Community Grants</p>
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Community Grants Programme	<p>The Community Grants Programme will help small third sector organisations support disadvantaged people within their communities through a wide variety of activities such as confidence building, basic skills, work experience, and mentoring.</p> <p>More information about the range of Learning and Skills Council ESF Convergence investments in training and skills can be found at:</p> <p>> www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments</p> <p>> www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthWest/</p> <p>Investments managed by Department for Work and Pensions/Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>Three ESF Convergence investments to help people overcome barriers to work have been contracted, as shown below.</p>
Cornwall Works Plus	<p>Cornwall Works Plus aims to provide high quality, individually tailored pathways to employment and to engage more people in areas where the benefit claim rate is high, through the development of multi-agency Neighbourhood Action Teams. This is being delivered through Working Links in partnership with a range of local sub-contractors.</p>
Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities	<p>Led by Cornwall Council and delivered through the Learning Disabilities Partnership, Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities focuses on the provision of investment and support to help people with learning disabilities secure employment.</p>
Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise	<p>Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise aims to engage, inspire and upskill participants through activities delivered by range of social enterprise partners under the leadership of Cornwall Council. Investments in this area include support for the Cornwall School for Social Entrepreneurs which provides support and training for people who want to use their entrepreneurial skills for social benefit.</p> <p>For more information, please see</p> <p>> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/news.php?id=22</p> <p>> www.convergencecornwall.com/convergence-investments/</p> <p>Investments managed by Government Office for the South West</p>
Graduate placement programme	<p>Convergence has invested in Unlocking Cornish Potential, the graduate placement programme which provides business placements for graduates during which they carry out a specific project to help the business develop.</p> <p>> www.convergencecornwall.com/what-is-convergence/media-releases.php (select press releases dated 6 August 2008 and 15 January 2009)</p>
Higher Education investments	<p>Further ESF Convergence investments in higher education including research, enterprise, higher education for business and widening participation are all under</p>

development at present.

Related European Programmes

Rural Development Programme for England

Royal Cornwall Show

The South West RDA's rural team will be attending the Royal Cornwall Show from 4 to 6 June – hopefully some of you will see them at stand 282.

Accessing the Rural Programme

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) can be accessed through the Rural Development Gateway on telephone 0845 600 9966 or at

> www.sw-ruralgateway.info

> www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm

> www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafrd/introduction.shtm

European Fisheries Fund Programme for the UK

Investments approved

Further investments have been approved or conditionally approved by the third European Fisheries Fund selection panel that was held on 21 May. They included £100,00 for a collaborative project between fishermen in the South West and Cefas to reduce fish discards through trawl modifications and investments in the processing of trout in Cornwall. For more information please see

> www.mfa.gov.uk/news/press/090529.htm

Fisheries Programme

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly over £7m is available through the European Fisheries Fund. It is open for applications, with a facilitation service provided by Steve Bailey on 07876 035733, 01503 240384 or s_bailey@seafish.co.uk.

> www.mfa.gov.uk.

More detailed information about Convergence, links to key organisations and websites can be found on our website

Freephone helpline 0800 028 0120
www.convergencecornwall.com
