

# Convergence progress report

May 2009

Convergence status as at 31 May 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 contracted / OP)	26%	17%	49%
Number of investments contracted	36	28	8*
Actual spend to date	13.28m	12.65m	0.63m
<b>N+2 spend target by end 2009</b>	<b>34.19m</b>	<b>21.00m</b>	<b>13.19m</b>

NB. During the life of the Programmes the monetary value of the Programmes will vary with the GBP/Euro exchange rates and hence figures and percentages will vary.

NB. \*Co-financed and direct contracts.

## Convergence Investments

### ERDF Convergence Investments Contracted To Date

- **Knowledge Escalator**

An initiative to encourage businesses and Higher Education institutes in Cornwall to work more closely together, this scheme 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 and aims to support business growth and stimulate new enterprise.

- **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.

- 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 in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- Truro Falmouth Branch Line**

£4.67 million ERDF Convergence investment in improved public transport giving access to work and Combined Universities in Cornwall at Falmouth, Penryn and Truro. An opening ceremony on 18 May marked the completion of this work.
- Peninsula Dental School**

More than £4.7 million investment to help develop a state-of-the-art dental education and research facility in Truro.
- Targeted 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.
- Watson-Marlow Pumps Group**

Falmouth pump manufacturer Watson-Marlow has announced a £7.3 million expansion having secured £768,700 of investment from the ERDF 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.
- Higher Education Expansion: Penwith**

An £8 million expansion of Higher Education in Penzance as part of the Combined Universities in Cornwall initiative has had approval for £4 million from the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Convergence Programme and £2 million from the South West RDA. The expansion, being led by Truro and Penwith College, will involve new and refurbished buildings. It is part of a £32 million master plan to support Further and Higher Education in Penwith.
- Pool Innovation Centre**

Pool Innovation Centre will provide high quality workspace and business support to start-up businesses with potential for growth, and is forecast to create 130 jobs by 2015. The project, which is led by Cornwall Council, is backed by £9 million of ERDF Convergence investment, and almost £3 million from the South West RDA.
- Bodmin Masterplan**

This investment will develop a Vision and Masterplan for Bodmin, to guide future development within the town. Key objectives include achieving a balance between housing, employment, community facilities and other infrastructure; providing a range of good quality, well-paid jobs; generating a higher level of investor interest, confidence and commitment to development in Bodmin; achieving high quality design and providing sustainable transport links.

## What is Commissioning?

ERDF Convergence investments are developed through the commissioning process. This is a process of testing, developing and, if appropriate, procuring potential investments for Convergence.

## What are Strategic Investment Frameworks?

Strategic Investment Frameworks are also being developed as part of the ERDF Convergence Programme. They provide a framework and justification for proposed Convergence investments in specific areas in Cornwall. Proposed SIF investments will then be developed, appraised and, if appropriate, procured.

### Strategic Investment Frameworks established to date:

- **Employment space Strategic Investment Framework**  
The Employment space SIF describes possible Convergence investments in workspace in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Individual proposals will now be developed and considered for Convergence investment and, if appropriate, approved.
- **Camborne Pool and Redruth Strategic Investment Framework**  
This SIF provides a framework for investments which would help increase the number and range of jobs, support business growth, stimulate innovation and enterprise, and boost skills levels in Camborne, Pool and Redruth.
- **Bodmin Strategic Investment Framework**  
The overall aim for the Bodmin Strategic Investment Framework is to develop Bodmin as an economic growth pole while retaining its distinctive heritage.
- **Newquay and St Columb Major Strategic Investment Framework**  
The framework includes proposals for employment and business site based options, sustainable transport and accessibility improvements, public realm enhancements as well as non site based initiatives such as digital infrastructure, business support and skills development.
- **St Austell, St Blazey and the Clay Area Strategic Investment Framework**  
This Strategic Investment Framework outlines economic development priorities including workspace, business support, skills development and public realm improvements.

### Areas for which SIFs are being developed:

- Falmouth; Penzance and the Isles of Scilly; Truro.

## ESF Convergence Investments Contracted

Three overarching ESF contracts have been agreed between the managing authority and the co-financing organisations (Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council). The co-financing organisations then sub-contract specific investments as listed below. The managing authority has also agreed one direct investment to date.



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for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

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## Investments managed by Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus' ESF Convergence investments are focussed on helping people into employment, in particular overcoming barriers to employment.

- Cornwall Works Plus
- Cornwall Works for Learning Disabilities
- Cornwall Works for Social Enterprise
  - School for Social Entrepreneurs

## Investments managed by the Learning and Skills Council

The Learning and Skills Council's ESF Convergence investments aim to raise skills levels to improve business productivity and to broaden individuals' employment options.

### Young people

- ACE - Apprenticeships, Curriculum Developments and Enterprise
- Freestyle: Best Start for Young People
- Freestyle: Equality and Diversity
- Freestyle: ELF (Extended Learner Fund)
- Involve (building the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector to work with young people)

### Workforce

- Capacity Building Works
- Cornwall Clusters
- EMBARK - equality and diversity positive action programmes
- FLAG - Families Learning and Growing Together
- Higher Education Interventions
- Key Sectors
- Rural Land Based
- Skills for Work
- The Progressive Isles
- Workforce Cornwall
- Workforce led programme and generic provision

### Adult

- Equator - Equality and Diversity
- Higher Education Routeways
- Vocational Routeways
- Partnership Works

### Community Grants

- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Community Grants Programme

### Direct investments

- Combined Universities in Cornwall Research Programme
- Unlocking Cornish Potential (graduate placement programme)

The most up to date information about the ERDF and ESF Convergence Programmes is available at [www.convergencecornwall.com](http://www.convergencecornwall.com).

## Associated Programmes - Rural Development and Fisheries

Further information about the European Fisheries Fund Programme can be found at the Marine and Fisheries Agency's website, [www.mfa.gov.uk](http://www.mfa.gov.uk).

Information about the Rural Development Programme for England is available at: [www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafnd/introduction.shtm](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafnd/introduction.shtm).



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European Union  
European Social Fund  
Investing in jobs and skills

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