

Creative hub will build community of makers in Liskeard

Liskeard will benefit from nearly £700,000 of investment in a new creative hub after Town Councilors agreed to accept the terms of the funding and proceed with the project at a special meeting on 29 July.

The Cattle Market Makers project will provide small workshops and shared space in a new purpose-built facility. There will be business and other support for craftspeople and makers and opportunities to try new crafts to boost skills and confidence for people not in work. A project manager and assistant will manage the space, organise training and events and provide business support.

The Cattle Market site is being re-developed in stages, in line with public consultation. The Cattle Market Makers project will be one of the earliest parts to be up and running, making use of the site while larger projects are being worked up.

There will be good links with the Cornwall Council-led Creative and Digital Workspace scheme which will provide larger workspaces. Makers who start out in the small workshops can grow into the larger studios, and businesses in the Creative and Digital workspaces can benefit from business support and facilities in the Cattle Market Makers project.

Liskeard Town Council successfully applied for £369,000 of European funding for the project. This is from the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) fund, which brings together EU funding which supports business with funds to help people who are economically inactive. Cornwall Council is a partner in the project and is providing £ 322,000 of match funding, which will mainly be spent on providing the creative hub units. Liskeard Town Council is putting in a small amount of match funding as well as having undertaken the considerable work to apply for funding and develop the project.

Another partner, Plymouth College of Art, has contributed its specialist knowledge to develop the application, and the meeting heard from Vice-Chair, Sue Brownlow, that they will help with practical workshops, events and access to their facilities including enabling a satellite of the digital Fab Lab. Local artists and educators Nicky Harwood and Emma Bennett also expressed support for the project, saying it will provide opportunities for makers to collaborate and provide much-needed business support.

Ian Hutchinson, Head of Development at Plymouth College of Art said; "Our Fab Lab was established as part of the college's £8million Crafts building, opened in 2014, which sites new technologies such as 3D printing alongside craft facilities like our glass blowing house and ceramics workshop, allowing students to combine traditional craft skills with modern technology. We are excited to contribute to this new project, and we look forward to bringing the skills and experience of our dedicated Fab Lab staff to Cattle Market Makers."

Former Liskeard Mayor, Rachel Brooks, who has led the development of the project, said: "We have many creative businesses in Liskeard. By nurturing them and building a community of makers we'll give people more reasons to visit our town. The project is also about working with people in deprivation for whom craft is a way to build confidence and find new opportunities. A huge amount of work has gone into this successful funding application and I'd like to thank the Town Council staff who worked on it and also our partners in Cornwall Council and Plymouth College of Art for all they have done."

Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for the economy Cllr Stephen Rushworth said: "The creative sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in the Cornish economy. This project will not only cater for existing businesses,

but also nurture new talent and help support the high street by bringing businesses into the town centre. It forms an important element of the wider regeneration of the former cattle market site and the Council is delighted to be working with the Town Council to provide support and funding to enable delivery of the creative hub and bring the project to fruition.”

Judith Hann from CLLD said: We are delighted to be working alongside Liskeard Town Council and Cornwall Council, to bring this exciting project to the town. Liskeard is the first Town Council to be awarded CLLD funding and we look forward to collectively supporting local creative and making businesses.

ENDS

For more information please contact Stephen Vinson, Liskeard Town Clerk [townclerk@liskeard.gov.uk]

Notes to Editors

ESF Funding

The project has received **£318,518.50** of funding from the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England. The Department for Work and Pensions (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for the England European Social Fund programme. Established by the European Union, the European Social Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support skills development, employment and job creation, social inclusion and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.

European Regional Development Fund

The project also received **£50,687.25** of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>

Community Led Local Development

- The Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme is investing EU funding throughout Cornwall, enhancing the local economy in core neighbourhoods. We are looking for innovative projects that will strengthen opportunities for people and enable business to grow. We are targeting our funding on the areas of Cornwall with the most need.
- Decisions on funding are made by our Local Action Groups who are members of the public from our target areas.

- Cornwall Development Company is the Accountable Body for the funding and provides the programme support, management and processes, supported by match funding from Cornwall Council.
- The CLLD programme has up to £11.570 million of funding from the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. This will be matched by a further £4m found by the projects to which we provide grants



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds