



Enabling Business  
Inspiring People

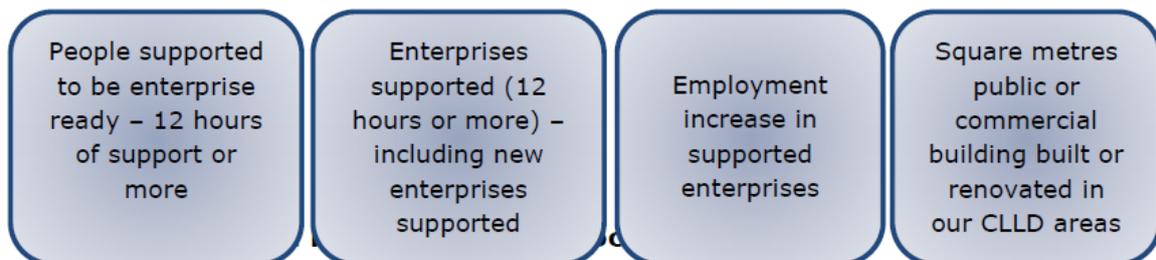
## **Paper to Liskeard Town Council regarding options for CLLD Funding.**

In response to questions asked by Councillors about other possible uses for CLLD funding, this paper sets out what is possible and what is not and why.

- **Support for the development of Serviced employment land – the provision of roads and services into allocated employment land (B1, B2 and B8) type premises.**

Within the ERDF (Capital / Revenue) CLLD funding, we have to achieve certain outputs which are as follows:

### **Outputs for projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund:**



The project in development (Liskeard Makers Hub) will potentially deliver against all of these but certainly against the building built / renovated in a core CLLD area.

As can be seen, there is no output against which we could claim if we were to invest in servicing employment land, and therefore this is not something the programme could consider.

We have investigated other sources of funding for this activity beyond the CLLD programme, and unfortunately there is none available at the current time.

- **Refurbishment of vacant premises in the town centre – for example, shop units.**

Unfortunately ERDF Capital funding that we have in cannot be used on retail premises, and so this would be ineligible activity and therefore un-fundable. This is set out in the national eligibility rules which state:

*Capital investment in land buildings or infrastructure of any nature for use and/or occupation by retail businesses and/or services such as restaurants is*

*not eligible, except for the installation of low carbon technology, or via a financial instrument.*

This also means that this activity will not be fundable under any ERDF funding programme.

- **The possible progression of the ESF project alone or with the ERDF revenue project with no ERDF capital element.**

Whilst this is possible, it would be a significant change to the project and we would need to go back to the South and East Cornwall Local Action Group to see if this is a project they would be interested in, before receiving a Full Application. Currently, taking into account the project pipeline and approved projects (which includes the amount set aside for this project), the SELAG ESF budget has a small over commitment of grant.

In addition, the capital element is what SELAG were most interested in providing investment for, as they could see it would create an asset that the town could benefit from in the longer term.

Assuming the LAG were willing to accept such a substantial change, we would need to recalculate all aspects of the project; currently it is the mixture of building, business support and skills/employability development that leads the project to score favourably in a value for money context. By delivering the ESF project alone, we would need to ensure that the value for money was comparable with other projects approved, which, based on the current ESF element, is not strictly the case.

## **Management of Risk**

Town Councillors are absolutely correct to be risk assessing this project in the current economic climate, and to ensure it will be of benefit to their town. It is the belief of the CLLD team that this project is low risk in that an asset is being created for the town, that the Town Council and the town's residents will benefit from in the medium terms, whilst the larger project on the Cattle Market is delivered. Anecdotally, in conversations with people being made redundant from a large attraction near St Austell, many were looking at developing smaller craft and freelance businesses. As the furlough period comes to an end across the Autumn period, there may well be a substantial increase in the numbers of people looking for space to set up a small business.

The one other component to consider is timing; the CLLD monies are here for a finite period and are available now for projects that will deliver in the next 2 and a half years. There is still little clarity of the levels and approaches for funding



under the 'Shared Prosperity Fund' that was proposed as the EU funding 'replacement' by national government. For information; the Local Action Group model has been written into the Cornwall Council submission to government as the methodology for delivering funded projects in local areas. However, we are all still waiting for the details.

**In summary:**

We recognise the need to review and assess projects within the current economic climate; the CLLD Liskeard Makers Hub project provides access to the development of asset, business support and employability support by the Town Council in a unique way. Only CLLD funding can enable this mixture of activity to be delivered by the Town Council, and we hope that you will wish to continue with this exciting (and ground-breaking) development.

Judith Hann

CLLD Programme Manager

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