

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum

Recruitment of a Chair Candidate Brief



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Table of Contents

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	3
The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum.....	4
Functions and Responsibilities	5
Membership.....	6
About the role	8
How to apply	13



Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is a region with a clear social, economic, cultural and brand identity. Founded on our cultural distinctiveness, history of innovation and digital capability and placing environmental sustainability at the heart of a growing creative and distinctive economy. A dispersed city, as a destination, we are the 3rd most recognised in the UK, and have been connecting and sharing with the world for millennia.

In Cornwall, we want to create a thriving and sustainable place where everyone can start well, live well, age well, with our enabling public sector embracing working with the private sector, the wealth creators to unlock Cornwall's potential. We want to be pioneers in sustainable living, unlocking our unique range of natural resources to create new well-paid skilled green jobs, growing our distinctive sectors to provide skilled career opportunities alongside our other core industries of creative industries, digital, agriculture, tourism and strong public service sector. We've hosted the G7, brought floating offshore wind investors to the UK, established a Geothermal energy sector, pump-primed critical minerals production and created facilities which launched the first mission to space from UK soil.

On the Isles of Scilly, 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall, the ambition is for an economy based on the unspoilt, unique beauty and setting of the Islands fostering economic development that supports improved skills and year-round career opportunities, capitalising on digital connectivity and natural assets.

We will harness all our capability and energy into the future as we look to a new economic strategy and a new partnership landscape to take our ambitions forward. Buoyed by the signature of Cornwall's Devolution Deal in November 2023, we will use our devolved control of skills budgets to align better career provision for our growth opportunities and build a labour market to meet business need. We will drive sector growth and sustainability through closer working alignment with Government and continue to pursue ambitions for greater responsibility for our own development.

We are looking for a confident and credible Chair to bring new connections and opportunities for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and act as our advocate and figurehead to work with us in continuing to change the perceptions of the region, pursue our interests with partners across the Great South West, advocate for CIoS nationally and internationally, attract investment and build on our distinctive and competitive advantages leading us into setting the trajectories for growth for the next decade and beyond.

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum (the Forum) will formally launch in June 2024. Private sector-led, it is a partnership between the private and public sectors and is responsible for advising, influencing and providing business advocacy to regional and national partners on the economic strategy for the area. This includes advising Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly on local economic priorities and monitoring policy, strategies and projects to drive growth, wealth generation and the creation of well-paid and skilled local jobs.

The Forum will be established following the Government's devolved approach to economic development and post Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) architecture. This new approach maintains the voice of businesses at the heart of local democracy and empowers the private sector to assist in determining regional priorities.

Through direct private sector and employer influence, the Forum will seek to enhance local economic strategies and interventions, shape business, trade and investment support and provide challenge and insight on business impacts of public sector initiatives. It will also provide market credibility and a strong vehicle for leveraging investment to support future growth programmes and developing effective partnership projects to support regional and sectoral development.

The Forum will work closely with a small executive team (within Cornwall Council) with a modest budget matched by core funding from Central Government and will directly influence the Cornwall Growth Board, an executive function of Cornwall Council which will be responsible for decision making and setting strategic direction on economic strategy, action plans, investment programmes and Cornwall Council's Local Plan as well as with the Islands Forum to support economic development on the Isles of Scilly.



Functions and Responsibilities

The Forum will:

- Embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's democratic institutions across key sectors including growth, core and foundational activity, a range of business size and type and geography appropriate to the local area.
- To engage business, opinion formers and policy makers at a local, national and international level in promoting economic growth in the region, capturing and communicating requirements for development of economic policy or commissioning of interventions and investments.
- Work with the Local Authorities on the strategic economic planning for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and the associated implementation of action and investment plans to drive sustainable and responsible economic and inclusive growth.
- Interrogate and inform a robust local evidence base to support the identification and prioritisation of sectoral strengths, promote opportunities for growth and tackle economic weaknesses.
- To ensure policy and decisions receive the input and views of key business leaders and take account of the views of the wider business community and to engage with local, national and international businesses to understand the needs of different sectors and markets.
- Create an environment for business growth ensuring appropriate mechanisms exist through which, as a co-ordinated voice, the private sector can inform and influence the shape and future direction of local and national government policy.
- Provide advice to the Cornwall Growth Board on strategic ambition and actions to support economic development and address barriers to growth through review of economic action plans.
- Provide oversight of programme monitoring for relevant investment programmes for CloS and advise on the complementarity of economic activities within Cornwall and Isles of Scilly against fund and local objectives.
- Support the implementation of devolution arrangements for Cornwall and the development of deeper devolution as future opportunities arise.

Membership

The Forum will be Chaired by an independent Chair recruited from the private sector. Given the strategic and significant importance of workforce and labour market in driving economic growth across all sectors in CloS, the Forum Vice Chair will be the Chair of the Employment, Skills and Labour Market Board.

When the Chair is unavailable to Chair the meeting, the Chair of the Employment, Skills and Labour Market Board will chair the meeting.

Private sector representative organisations and sector representatives will be nominated by their respective organisations or sector development networks.

The Forum will include representatives from distinctive sectors in CloS based on our Economic Strategy and could include:

- i. An independent Chair recruited from the private sector;
- ii. A recruited representative for Employment, Skills and Labour Market and Vice Chair;
- iii. A nominated representative from Cornwall Chamber of Commerce;
- iv. A nominated representative from Federation of Small Business;
- v. A nominated representative for Innovation;
- vi. A nominated representative from the Agri-food sector;
- vii. A nominated representative from the Visitor Economy sector;
- viii. A nominated representative from the Georesources sector;
- ix. A nominated representative from the Clean energy sector;
- x. A nominated representative from the Space and Data sector;
- xi. A nominated representative from Creative and Digital;
- xii. A nominated representative from the Islands Futures Board;
- xiii. x2 nominated Cornwall Council Elected Member representatives, including a member of the largest opposition group;
- xiv. x1 nominated Council of the Isles of Scilly Elected Member representative;

This membership will be reviewed annually in line with strategic priorities.

The Executive Secretariat Function for the Forum, not included in the above membership, will be in attendance at Forum meetings in a non-voting capacity. Representatives from UK Government Departments shall also be invited to attend Forum meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Membership will be for a four-year term, with the option for a member to be reappointed if the Forum representatives support it. Where members leave before that time, representatives will be sought again by the Executive Secretariat Function from the sector/organisation they are representing. Membership will also be reviewed as needed to reflect any changes in economic and sectoral importance, relevant regulations and policy.



About the role

The Chair will play a direct and influential role in how Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly develop and grow. The Chair is a critical role and ensures the overall success of the Forum.

As Chair you will be expected to:

- Lead the Forum to ensure a balance between high level coordination and advising Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly on the commissioning of strategic and sector programming, to deliver on economic development ambitions for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- Champion and represent the sectoral strengths and opportunities and highlight needs of the CloS economy nationally and internationally including with government agencies, including, Members of Parliament and Ministers.
- Provide confident strategic leadership, challenge and support to the partnership, convening stakeholders across the private and public sector, harnessing skills, expertise and experience from the Forum to create an effective body that establishes credibility and confidence within the wider market and advises Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly on 'place making' strategies and economic development.
- Support the CloS ambition to accelerate economic growth through business investment for businesses of all sizes from micro and SMEs to corporates, highlight barriers to growth and ensure businesses have the right skills, infrastructure and connections to deliver to their greatest potential.
- Credibly and successfully navigate bringing private sector experience, advice and advocacy to influence public sector decision making, operating successfully and fairly in a political environment, taking all views into consideration. Effectively influence local government decision making by representing the Forum on the Cornwall Growth Board and on the Islands Forum and working with the Great South West (GSW) Board.
- Champion Good Growth to tackle wealth inequality, drive inclusion and sustainability.
- Possess the ability to deploy effortless networking to bring new connections and



opportunities for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly working closely with other business organisations, Government and private sector organisations based outside of the region in order to attract inward investment.

Experience

- An individual with a successful private sector career, widely respected and well recognised as an independent business voice with a significant track record of organisational leadership and management at the highest level in the private sector.
- Proven track record of success in having operated effectively within a public/private context, with demonstrable experience and knowledge of working within a private/public partnership.
- Confidence in supporting the development of labour markets and skills alignment to convene public and private sector experience and capacity to develop fit for purpose labour markets for current and future needs.
- Proven significant business experience and credibility across businesses of all sizes with a track record of success in influencing decision making and developing high quality thinking in a business context.
- Proven track record of success in convening private and public sector stakeholders and building and skilled in motivating senior teams to deliver a clear strategic vision through effective communication and influence.
- Proven track record of success in financial management, with commercial acumen, to high standards of probity.
- Proven track record of success in chairing boards or committees in a high-profile role.
- Proven track record of success in communicating and working effectively in cooperation with a wide range of people and stakeholders to engender support, developing positive personal and organisational profiles, and building partnerships that add value.
- Proven track record of successful and effective handling of the media in a high-profile role.



Abilities, skills and knowledge

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills that command credibility and respect amongst a wide variety of audiences with a strong ability, vision and capacity to lead.
- Ability to present well-ordered arguments, with knowledge and understanding of the wider strategic context.



- Ability to inspire and influence the delivery of results and outcomes in highly complex political environments.
- An individual who is locally engaged and connected but with demonstrable national and international connectivity.
- Delivering in the public spotlight and instilling public confidence to promote and enhance the brand of Cornwall in and out of the region.
- Demonstrable success and ability to operate in a political environment with

diplomacy and astute political skills and ability to appropriately question, scrutinise and challenge in a public forum.

- An ability to effectively operate at all levels, with a proven track record of enabling and encouraging consensus on complex issues.
- A strong awareness of the long-term direction of the economy in CloS including workforce and labour market trends.
- A knowledge of, and a passion for, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly - its people, communities, businesses, organisations and infrastructure.

Personal Style and Behaviour

- A strong leader with credibility and entrepreneurial vigour, with a passion for promoting Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, with the ability to develop ideas and deliver effectively. A decisive and effective decision-maker, who leads by example and builds consensus.
- Excellent ambassadorial qualities; an open, engaging, enthusing and winning style.
- The personal and professional demeanour and credibility that will command wide confidence of stakeholders.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the brand of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

- Clear strategic and creative thinker, able to influence the delivery of complex strategic projects.
- An active advocate and champion of Good Growth and a desire to improve diversity, equality and inclusive growth, sustainable development and clean growth.
- Commitment to our values of accountability, openness and transparency.
- Able to work as a member of a team, acting and thinking corporately, with a collaborative style that engages people at all levels.
- High degree of probity and integrity.
- Highly motivated and not easily discouraged, with resilience and tenacity.

Conduct and Probity

The Chair must act in what they believe to be the best interests of the Forum, and not in their own interest or those of any person or company. They must comply with the requirements to disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and any conflicts of interest – whether they are actual or potential/ perceived.



The Chair will ensure that their conduct is in accordance with the Code of Conduct for

Forum Members including the Nolan Principles contained within the Code. The chair will encourage other Forum Members to comply with the Code.

The Chair will comply with all requirements in respect of information management relating to the business and functions of the Forum.

Remuneration package and commitment

- It is envisaged that the role will require a time commitment of approximately four days per month with possibly a greater commitment at certain times.
- The precise nature and timing of this commitment will be determined with the successful candidate, but it is expected that candidates should be prepared to attend four Forum meetings annually, lasting for a maximum of five hours, held at varying locations around Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- This role will receive an annual remuneration of £25,000-£30,000; standard rate travel

expenses to and from Forum meetings and other agreed meetings on behalf of the Forum, can be claimed at the prevalent local government rate.

- The Chair will be appointed initially for a four-year term (subject to 12 monthly reviews as necessary) but at the end of this first appointment period, they shall be eligible for reappointment for a further period of four years with a maximum of two terms being served.

Document Library for further background and strategic context:

- [Cornwall Plan 2020 - 2050](#)
- [Cornwall Council Business Plan 2022 to 2026](#)
- [Cornwall Growth Prospectus](#)
- [LEP 10 Opportunities](#)
- [Cornwall Devolution Deal](#)
- [Good Growth Investment Plan](#)



How to apply

Contact

To arrange an informal and confidential conversation, please email [Dawn Faulkner](#), [Martin Tucker](#), [Rob Naylor](#) or [Sean Anderson](#) for an informal discussion.

Alternatively, please call us on **0121 312 3755**.

Apply

To apply for this role please [follow this link](#) and click on the Apply button at the bottom of the page. When prompted, please submit your CV and a Supporting Statement (no more than four sides of A4 each)

Your supporting statement should express why you are interested in this role and what relevant experience you can bring to the Forum and to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

