

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum

10.00am on Wednesday 5 September 2007

Trelawney Room, New County Hall, Truro

Present:

Nigel Ashcroft	ICT Taskforce
Rose Barnecut	Creative Unit
John Berry	Cornwall Enterprise
Stephen Bohane	SW Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
Nigel Carpenter	Cornwall Destination Management Organisation
Bob Dow	Business Link
Annette Egerton	Restormel Borough Council
Barbara Ellenbroek	Cornwall Business Partnership
Richard Fish	Connecting Cornwall
Lucy Harris	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum (Secretariat)
Peter Hardaker	Cornwall Agricultural Council
Sheila Healy	Cornwall County Council
Rick Hopkins	Cornwall Business Partnership;
Philip Hygate	Council of the Isles of Scilly (Vice Chairman)
Sarah Jory	North Cornwall District Council for Neil Burden
Carleen Kelemen	Objective One Partnership Office
David Lobban	Cornwall Business Partnership
Andrew Mitchell	Cornwall County Council
Michelle O'Brien	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum (Secretariat)
David Pattison	Cornwall County Council
Alan Pearce	Job Centre Plus for Karen Chapman
Neil Robertson	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum (Secretariat)
Alan Shepherd	Cornwall Marine Network
Ian Smith	Environment Kernow
Thelma Sorensen	Cornwall Business Partnership (Chairman)
Carol Wells	Cornwall Business Partnership
Craig Whibley	South West RDA for Phil McVey
Mark Williams	Learning and Skills Council

1 Election of Chairman

NR introduced this item and advised that a number of nominations had been received for the current Chairman and Vice Chairman. There were no opposing nominations. CW and AM proposed their re-election, PHa seconded. A unanimous show of hands followed and a round of applause welcomed the Chairman and Vice Chairman into post for a third term.

The Chairman thanked the members for their vote of confidence on her Chairmanship and expressed her deep appreciation of the tremendous support she has received over the past four years from all concerned. She particularly made reference to the unflinching, enthusiastic support she has always received from Philip Hygate, as Vice-Chairman, and the Secretariat.

a) Additional Item – Local Government Review

SH congratulated TS and PHy on their re-election. She welcomed the opportunity to update the Partnership on progress, achieved to date, towards 'One Cornwall' and stressed the importance of remembering why this proposal was going ahead. The outcome should be

stronger strategic leadership in the County, a strong sense of place and identity, increased efficiency and more effective delivery of services. The end result will be a saving of, at least, £17million per annum. Of all of the bids submitted across the country only nine proposals were successful; five of which are for whole county unitary authorities.

CCC is working with the District Councils to develop a unified approach. 80-90% of front-line staff across the County will transfer into the new Council under TUPE arrangements. The issues of timing and the number of members for the new Council are interdependent and will be resolved by the outcome of the Boundary Review for the 2009 election. CCC will continue to work with stakeholders in both the Private and Voluntary Sectors. SH stressed her continued commitment to economic development and advised that planning and transport are being brought together with economic development at County level. The development of the Cornwall Development Agency brings with it increased hope for the devolution of SWRDA funding to Cornwall.

TS raised the issue of sensitivities around the transition into a Unitary Authority. SH stated that, although Penwith District Council is currently instigating judicial proceedings, the District Council Chief Executives meet regularly. She stressed that there is only one chance to get the foundations right for a unitary authority and the time lines for the new Council structure, already up and running, are non-negotiable.

SH thanked the members for their support in the transition period and offered to give a regular update on progress. This offer was welcomed and agreed. SH left the meeting at this point.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Sheila Johns – TUC; Blair Thomson - Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum; David Brewer - Cornwall Business Partnership; Jenny Milligan – GOSW; Les Donnithorne - Carrick District Council; Bert Biscoe - Rural Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Partnership; Karen Chapman - Job Centre Plus; Phil McVey - South West Regional Development Agency; Polly Skinner - Lifelong Learning Partnership; Carolyn Rule - Kerrier District Council; Neil Burden – North Cornwall District Council

Non-Attendees

Paul Brough	Heritage Task Force
Ian Tunbridge	Combined Universities in Cornwall
Hudson Smith	Penwith District Council
Bill George	Cornwall Association of Local Councils
Ken Martin	Cornwall Manufacturers' Forum
Hugh Francis	Caradon District Council

In Attendance

Simon Hooton	South West RDA – presentation on SW Debates
Andrea Gilbert	Inclusion Cornwall – presentation on Migrant Workers
David Rodda	Cornwall Agricultural Council

The members wished to pass on their best wishes to Sheila Johns who has been unwell for some time.

2 Minutes of the meeting held 22 May 2007

RF wished to note his attendance which had not been noted in the previous minutes.

SB wished to tighten up the wording on page 2 regarding CPR to read 'the RDA anticipated

being able to issue a formal CPO Order late autumn 2007. This will start the legal process resulting in a public inquiry within 21 weeks'. AE added that a CPO is the safest and most effective way to proceed.

With these amendments, the Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3 Matters Arising

Page 2 Isles of Scilly Route Partnership Project

PHy advised this was progressing well.

Page 2 Newquay Cornwall Airport

AM stated that, although there are still some concerns, this work is progressing well. It is now less than twelve months before the MOD hand over to Cornwall County Council. There are still some issues with Objective One funding, but he anticipated that work at the terminal will recommence this winter. A planning application will be submitted shortly for the new terminal and passenger numbers have increased to more than 400,000 this year. AM also advised that discussions were underway with a number of airlines and more routes across Europe are anticipated.

CK added that GOSW are still pursuing State Aid clarity and there should be an announcement at the end of September. RF stated that CCC would be attending the Routes Conference in Sweden in September where the new image and brand of the airport will be displayed.

TS advised that she will be meeting with Chris Cain, Newquay Airport Project Director that afternoon to ascertain the current position in respect of the Master Plan and other issues.

Page 3 European Programmes

In response to a query regarding Private Sector match funding, within The Convergence Programme, CK advised that there had been a change in the Regulation governing The European Regional Development Fund for the period 2007-13, which means that the private sector contributions will not be accounted for in the Financial Tables of the Programme. With the removal of this, the ERDF intervention rate is now set at 70% across the whole of the Programme, allowing 75% for Lisbon focussed activity and a maximum of 50% for non-Lisbon activity. The European commission is due to issue further guidance on this issue in early October.

It is clear however that the private sector remains key partner in delivering the Convergence ERDF Programme and that we will need to capture both the role and investment activity of private sector involvement that will once more contribute to the Programmes success.

CWh added that Nick Turner has joined the SWRDA team to develop the pre-commissioning activity for the Convergence Programmes and will attend a future meeting of the Economic Forum as an observer.

CK reiterated the previous agreement of the Economic Forum to have the European Structural Programmes as a standing item. She requested that, as there will be a number of issues affecting all of the Programmes including Convergence, questions be submitted to the Secretariat prior to the meeting in order that they may be fully addressed by the relevant managing bodies for the meeting.

Action: Future questions regarding European Programmes to be sent to Secretariat prior to the Economic Forum meeting.

Page 8 Job Centre Plus

AP advised that more information would be available in late September/early October.

Page 8 SWRDA

SB reported that the sale of other sites in the County, having been in receipt of ERDF investment, is on hold awaiting further information on possible 'claw back'

5 Migrant Workers Research

Andrea Gilbert (AG) introduced herself, and the Inclusion Cornwall Partnership, which is a fellow partnership, with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum, within the Cornwall Strategic Partnership. She advised that Migrant Worker issues are part of the LAA and are linked through cross-cutting outcomes. This is a politically sensitive topic and the Inclusion Cornwall Partnership has been working with partners to change perceptions of migrant workers within the County.

The Partnership is well represented and has published a Welcome Pack in four languages; Russian, Portuguese, Polish and English. There is no money formally allocated for this production, but CCC has been most generous in its support. The Welcome Pack has been seen as not only for information but for providing information which can be life saving. It is owned across the County and has been seen nationally as an example of best practice.

Funds have been secured, via the LSC, for basic evidence gathering. LINC has produced the findings on its website. She advised that the media is sceptical of this group of workers. AG also made the point that Migrant Workers are not taking work from the local people; there are a number of workless people who are not ready for work.

The attitude of the Migrant Workers varied between nationalities. The workers stay in short blocks of time of between three to four months. There are around 8,000 - 13,000 in the County at any one time, but this is difficult to monitor as they constantly move throughout the Country. She advised that, under the law, Migrant Workers are entitled to homes once they meet the set criteria.

The Police have started a 'responsible employer scheme' and there are links with mental health and 'Cornwall Works'. This scheme helps the workers to understand tax and other issues. There is a great deal of work underway to eliminate unacceptable working and living conditions. A strong stand has been made in Cornwall against poor conditions and gang-masters are aware that this will not be tolerated.

The work has attracted both national and international interest and the staff members have worked across the country, sharing the best practise. However, they are aware that their focus must remain on Cornwall. They are working with the media to change the perception and messages which are being conveyed to the public.

She announced that the Lithuanian Ambassador would be coming to Cornwall and will be the Key Note speaker at a conference which is being held on 26 September.

AG requested that any questions the member may have be forwarded to her. AS added that AG was being modest in her presentation, as Cornwall is two years ahead of the rest of the Country, in addressing Migrant Worker issues, and that AG and her team should be commended. AG agreed that the group is very effective and issues have moved forward.

CK added that there is still a misunderstanding on what comes under the heading of 'Migrant Workers'. Some people see them in the lower-paid sector, but there are people in the marine and also research and technology sectors. AG advised that some are working their way up the career ladder very quickly.

In response to a query regarding an economic strategy around Migrant Workers, AG advised that the economic value of the workers to the County as a whole is being addressed. She was looking for guidance from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum on how to address the research in order to obtain the most appropriate economic information.

PHa stated that the Migrant Workers are essential to the agricultural economy and they are highly regarded as hard workers. The recent concerns, regarding a particular company in Cornwall which were voted World Growers of the Year in 2006, were raised because they had subcontracted the employment of Migrant Workers through Elite Labour to Baltic Labour. As soon as the problem was brought to their notice, the connection with Baltic Labour was discontinued and the matter was reported immediately to the correct authorities. He further reported that there was a pool of local people who would want to be involved in casual work, but the six week period before benefits can be reclaimed is preventing them from taking on this work. AP advised that there are ways around such delays and there should not be a delay in returning to benefits from temporary work.

Action: AP to forward information on temporary work and the avoidance of reclaiming benefit delays to PHa via Secretariat.

AS advised of a group called 'Pole Position' who are on the 'Train to Gain' programme and who are progressing extremely well. JB reported that the term 'Migrant Workers' means different things to different people and, from an economic development point of view, it needs to be looked at differently. 'Migrant Workers' is not a good term as it conjures up images of exploitation. AG agreed with this view but, as it is the term being used by government, this is the definition used. A section of the Migrant Workers had been asked what they would want to be called and they had confirmed they were happy with the term.

JB added that it would be helpful if the research looked at the different jobs being undertaken by the Workers. IS agreed it would be useful to unpack the information in greater detail and to identify those who choose to stay in order that the economic benefit can be clearly ascertained.

Action: Draft brief for research to be circulated to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum members for input.

NC stated that there has been a huge growth in numbers of Migrant Workers within the tourism industry but that, he personally, does not employ them as they dilute the Cornish distinctiveness of the product. It was agreed that many of the Migrant Workers were charming and well educated. AG added that, if employers can find 'job ready' Cornish people to employ then this was great but, if there was a gap in their employment, there were Migrant Workers willing to take on the unfilled positions.

The Chairman thanked AG for her presentation and congratulated her on her own personal achievement in promoting the Migrant Worker issues so effectively both within and outside the County.

6 SW Debates

Simon Hooton (SH), Director of Policy and Strategy at SWRDA was introduced by TS. SH reported that the South West Debates were established nine months ago to address five key subjects from the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and to reach some consensus on how they may be taken forward to the next review of the Strategy. The five issues are:-

- Securing economic growth within environmental limits
- A growing, ageing and more diverse population – ¾ million more by 2025
- Energy challenges – what energy mix do we need for the future?

- Competitive threats and opportunities from globalisation – globalisation and population issues begin to merge.
- Regional leadership.

The debates focus on economic impacts and are jointly led by the SWRDA and partners. The debates have been given significant investment and their purpose is to build on the work that already exists. Four of the debates are underway and 'Regional Leadership' would commence in September. A website has been created and there are active discussion forums being developed. Partner events have taken place and E-bulletins are being circulated to over 800 people. The website link is www.swdebates.info. SH directed the members through the content of the website in order to raise awareness - the SWRDA is dedicated to broadening awareness of the issues and encouraging more people to get involved. There are a number of important and challenging topics which need to be given consideration. A number of events would be held in the autumn and SH would circulate information via the Secretariat.

CK stated that this was an excellent process and asked how the SWRDA plan on managing expectations which will arise from the debates. SH responded that challenges will have to be faced as they arise.

AM advised that he had read that the RES and RSS would be joined together in the future and asked if, following the Sub National Review, there will be seven different strategies to cover the region, or one strategy with seven sub sections. SH advised that there will be, ultimately, a single regional strategy merging together the RES and RSS. His personal opinion was that there would not be seven separate strategies, but one which recognised the differences and commonalities across the region.

TS added that she saw it as an opportunity to integrate the South West Region more fully. The Chairman thanked SH for his presentation and wished him success with the South West Debates.

7 Local Area Agreement Update

LH provided a presentation to the members giving a background, in simple terms, of the LAA and advised that, although it has been moving forward, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum has not been actively involved in the process to date. She described what an LAA means, its perceived benefits and the role that the LAA will play in the future. Of the four 'blocks', the main one of interest for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum is the Economy and Enterprise block.

Government has indicated that, as of June 2008, all resources will be supported via the indicators agreed in the new-style LAA and that it is not an option, Cornwall must ensure that the LAA outcomes, within the Economy and Enterprise block, have sufficient coverage of the economic strategy of the County, 'Strategy and Action'.

LH has been holding meetings with each of the leads on 'Strategy and Action' to ensure that there is sufficient coverage within the Strategy for the LAA. 'Strategy and Action' has led the development of the new outcomes and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum should now be in a position to become more involved.

LH made three recommendations, which were, in turn, agreed by the members:-

1. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum to monitor existing outcomes through better co-ordinated quarterly reports.
2. Consider and agree the Terms of Reference (which would be circulated following the meeting).

3. Set up a specific LAA sub-group comprising of volunteers from the Economic Forum which will report back to the full Economic Forum as a standing agenda item.

Action: Terms of Reference for Thematic Partnerships to be circulated.

LH is to hold a meeting with the LAA team to discuss the reports which are sent to the Economic Forum to ensure the information received is relevant and useful. The Economic Forum has a role to ensure that the outcomes are fit for purpose.

CK queried what purpose there was in developing the LAA.

AS advised that he is a representative on the Monitoring Board and stated that, as yet, it has not reduced bureaucracy. AM added that it is the 'only game in town' and he is becoming more involved. The aim is for everyone to come together to deliver in a more efficient way.

SB advised that he is the economic champion on the LAA Management Board and is meeting with the outcome leads to ensure that he is fully engaged in the process. He stated that the targets are being achieved, but questioned how ambitious the targets were. SB volunteered to sit on the sub-group and added that another issue to discuss is the involvement of the Private Sector.

MW advised that there are opportunities to set more challenging targets, but there are barriers at government level to stop us achieving and being ambitious. Much of the new and existing money will be going out to competitive tendering. MW has been working with others to find ways around the system to pool and align targets, but this needs flexibility and agreement from central government.

BD added that Partnerships are already well-developed in Cornwall so "we can now see the benefits - government are trying to force something which we are already doing". TS stated that it will be difficult to show an improvement as Cornwall is already working so well in partnership. SB has been asking outcome leads what difference the implementation of the LAA has made to existing partnership working and has been told that it has further improved

JB stressed that this is an opportunity to push such matters forward and express the views of Cornwall to central government.

In response to a query from BE regarding any involvement of those present in the LAA, nine members confirmed their involvement.

IS pointed out the difference between stretch targets (funding linked) and general outcomes. It was understood that the real idea behind these agreements is joined-up service delivery. PHy advised that the real opportunities can be realised under the freedom and flexibilities elements. He stressed that this is the area where the real focus needs to be.

The members agreed the establishment of a LAA sub-group and investigation into more appropriate reporting procedures.

8 Strategic Economic Partnership Chairs Update

TS gave an overview of the composition of the SEP Chairs group and a briefing on the last meeting held recently at the Eden Project. Ben Bradshaw, Regional Minister for the South West had been in attendance. She reported that he does not see himself as being involved on a day to day basis as his other duties, as Number Two at the Ministry of Health, will only allow him to allocate one day per week to his South West Region responsibilities. He sees his role as being strategic. TS was pleased that Cornwall was the host for his first meeting in this role.

She reported that Simon Hooton presented an item on Climate Change and the SWRDA Climate Change Action Plan that is in place. SWRDA's Corporate Plan will be carbon neutral. TS mentioned the Nottingham Declaration which had been signed by the CCC. SB agreed to report back in more detail on the content of this declaration. IS added that all Councils in Cornwall have signed up to this.

TS advised that much of the carbon emissions come from existing housing stock and questioned how this could be managed in the context of carbon emission reduction in the future. There is an increased need for new builds to be more energy efficient. IS added that the construction industry needs to respond to the challenge. DL stated that the Housing Bill will be fought all the way. Developers want to sell their product at the best price and there is a significant cost implication in building more energy efficient houses. This cost is relatively so high that it may affect the 'affordable housing' element of a development if it is to allow for sustainability improvements.

TS went on to advise that Maureen McAlister (SWRDA Head of Tourism) had presented on tourism and the Destination Management Organisations. JB added that DMOs are in all parts of the Region and that South West Tourism is currently undergoing a review which had not yet been concluded. The meeting had also been given a project on Project Dawn, a National project to drive up skills in the visitor economy.

A presentation was given on Planning Reform, and the forthcoming Planning White Paper, by Pat Stewart of SWRDA. It had been useful to get a regional view-point. Richard Bayly also gave a presentation on the Sub-National Review. Gaynor Coley had concluded the meeting with a presentation on the social enterprise work that Eden is undertaking.

Action: Items, which members would like to see discussed, and placed on the Agenda at future SEP Chairs Forum meeting, to be sent to the Secretariat.

LH added that the RDA 'Partners for England' project is attempting to gather intelligence on tourism research and there is an opportunity to input into this.

PHa suggested that the landscape, as far as land use is concerned, should be looked at on a regional basis. He had concerns, unless this was addressed, that there could be acres of energy crops and little else.

TS advised that discussion had also taken place on the recent flooding in Gloucester and how well this had been dealt with by all the partners involved. She had requested that a Tool Kit to be created from this experience to inform others in the likely event of this situation recurring elsewhere in the Region.

AE stated that she was pleased that Ben Bradshaw had visited Restormel B C .and that she had had the opportunity to welcome the Regional Minister for the South West. She stressed the importance of keeping him informed and added that Gordon Brown had chosen one of our local MPs, Matthew Taylor, to be an adviser on rural and affordable housing issues.

CK confirmed the Chair's concerns around the restrictions which may be placed on local planning decisions during the transition period leading up to a Unitary Authority. She supported the Chair's proposal that this should be raised at senior executive and regional level.

All European Structural funds have rules relating to procurement as do UK Government policy. She supported the view that this issue should be addressed with the managing authority and Government match funds, such as Cornwall County Councils as to how we can minimise a negative impact on the local economy.

TS further added that SWRDA are currently working on how the South West Region, essentially a rural area, might meet the urban centric 'excellent' criteria of BREAAAM or a SW version of these criteria.

AM wished to note thanks to MW and Carolyn Webster for all the work that they are undertaking on behalf of Cornwall. He considered that their efforts are over and beyond what might be reasonably expected of them. He had made contact with SWRDA to advise that the worse case scenario of an open competitive tender process would be that Cornwall does not get the work generated by the Convergence Programmes. If the tenders go out of Cornwall, it will defeat the economic regeneration which the programmes are aimed to achieve. AM suggested that, if it appears that tenders will be allocated outside of the County, a delegation of people should be ready to go to both London and Brussels

TS and AM expressed concerns relating to a new rule which proposes that the disposal of Local Authority assets and commissioning of projects over £100,000, in regions currently working to unitary status, may have to go to the Secretary of State for approval. Both felt that this could cause significant delays in delivery of capital and other projects. AM advised that clarification is being sought and TS added that the Sites and Premises Group will be also making a formal statement.

MW thanked the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum members for their support in the development of the LSC's co-financing plan. MW felt that this plan reflected the strategic and operational skills issues affecting Cornwall as developed by S&A, the LAA, and the Children & Young Peoples plan. He advised that DWP, as co-financer for the worklessness agenda, wished to maintain greater centralised control over the activities linked to worklessness in the ESF Convergence Programme. Carolyn Webster has been working hard to stretch that approach to give Cornwall more influence on how the co-financing projects will be managed, delivered and measured. There is a realistic risk that money may go out of the County, but he considered that the partnerships, already in place in Cornwall, should be strong enough to secure the funding. However, he reminded members that the process will be open and competitive and that the best bids would secure support. The risk should be minimised by the fact that 'Strategy and Action', the LAA and the Operational Programme Document had been written by Cornwall for Cornwall.

9 Questions on EU Programmes Update

CWh reported that the Operation Programme Document is being redrafted to take account of the negotiations which had recently taken place at the Commission. This re-negotiation had not affected the timetable. The O. P.Task and Finish Group is well represented and the pre-commissioning position is identified within the SWRDA Quarterly Newsletter.

RB queried the public consultation on the expansion of the airport. AM responded to confirm that the Master Plan will be issued for public consultation. The Master Plan is currently on hold due to the MOD querying the accommodation of certain built environment elements within the facility. He considered that once these issues have been clarified, the final consultation will commence. RB questioned how the commitment can be so clear if the public view has not yet been considered. AM advised that the consultation is not relating to whether or not the expansion should take place, but the plans for what is to be done. The consultation will seek views on expectations, the mix of business and tourism routes and take a view on what Cornwall thinks are the best opportunities presented by the development of the airport. The number one objective is to ensure that the economy of Cornwall is secured and developed as much as possible. However, mitigation of the environmental impact is also incorporated within the development of the Master Plan. Reports have been commissioned on the environmental impact. The intention is to expand the airport, but to be as green as

possible in doing so. He pointed out that these environmental measures will only be relevant to the airport and not the aircraft using it.

SB added that, when the SWRDA Board agreed to invest £8million into the airport, there had been a significant debate on economic and environmental issues. The final outcome had been an overwhelming agreement to go ahead.

RF stated that the types of potential routes are being investigated, as domestic flights have a lower carbon impact.

Action: Newquay Cornwall Airport to be on the agenda of the next meeting.

CWh advised that the EU Commission do have 'buy-in' to the development of the airport and have given significant consideration to the environmental issues involved. He considered that Convergence can help with green issues around the airport.

PHa advised that RDPE is a fund of £55million over six years. It is a national programme with regional implementation. The Regional Implementation Plan has been well received and Cornwall has been part of the consultation process. The Regional Implementation Group is chaired by GOSW and SWRDA. Natural England and the Forestry Commission are also represented. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Task and Finish Group are looking to set up a Cornwall Implementation Group with Private Sector representation. He stressed that it is important that Cornwall has a real input to this activity. Previously, under EAGGF, there had been a total of £12million. This time, there is £8million per annum with the potential for added Private Sector investment.

Action: Paper on RDPE to go to next meeting.

Business support will be delivered by the SW Rural Enterprise Gateway. The total amount is £47.9 million of which £19.2 million is allocated to Cornwall.

CWh added that, in addition to the £55 million, there is £200million allocated to the environment. PHa stated that the majority of amount is already committed, but all deliverers will need to work together to ensure a joined up approach.

There is a great deal of pre-commissioning work underway. CK stated that nothing will be approved until the Programme has been contractually agreed.

NA advised that, following a meeting with the SWRDA, he was still not clear on the commissioning process. It was clear that it is a fairly complex and evolving situation. AS stated that there would be a commissioning workshop at Kingsley Village at the end of the month.

CWh confirmed that the commissioning process will be finalised when the PMC have approved the approach to delivery.

10 Any Other Business

In response to a query from TS regarding progress on Peninsula Enterprise and business support, BD advised that progress was positive but slow. He is working closely with SERCO and Peninsula Enterprise and anticipates no changes as at 1 December. He considered that there will be gradual changes in services following this time.

TS advised that the membership of the Executive Group is being re-viewed in the light of the need for it to relate more closely to the Convergence Programmes.

TS warmly congratulated CK on becoming a UK citizen.

11 Date of Next Meetings

28 November 2007 10.30 am - Venue TBC

21 February 2008 10.30 am, Trelawney Room, NCH

22 May 2008 10.30 am, Trelawney Room, NCH

4 September 2008 10.30 am, Trelawney Room, NCH

27 November 2008 10.30 am, Tbc

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.