



30 September 2022

St Ives welcomes first instalment of Town Deal funding

Click here to view a short film about the announcement <https://youtu.be/ywkOppPOwZw>

The confirmation of the multi-million Town Deal funding by Government to Cornwall Council this week is great news for St Ives. The release of the first instalment of the money means that work can now officially begin on delivering our long-awaited regeneration projects.

Last year the St Ives Town Deal Board successfully bid for a Town Deal worth £19.9 million. This was based on a [Town Investment Plan](#) (TIP) which identified a mix of large-scale transformation projects together with a number of smaller scale community projects aimed at delivering the [vision and aims](#) developed in consultation with the local community.

The bid was designed to deliver three key objectives:

- Generate inclusive green growth and new enterprise, within a year-round economy
- Support the health, wellbeing and aspiration of all residents in life and work
- Create opportunities for young people which allow them to flourish

In response, nine local projects, supported by the Board and Cornwall Council, were put forward to deliver on the Town Deal's objectives. Aimed at improving and enhancing the town, these include plans to create an integrated and low carbon transport system, support local business and jobs, and develop new skills and supply chains as well as provide new and transformed housing and community assets.

St Ives is one of four towns in Cornwall which were originally invited to bid for a share of the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund to help regenerate and improve their local economies.

The £88.7 million Town Deal Funding allocated to Cornwall will be invested in over 30 projects and delivered across Truro, Camborne, Penzance and St Ives. As Lead Authority for the region, Cornwall Council has received the first instalment of £18 million for 2022 / 2023 for the four towns.

“This is great news for St Ives” said Gareth Jones, Vice Chair of St Ives Town Deal Board. **“These projects offer a once in a lifetime chance to improve the quality of life for our residents, support local businesses, and create new employment and skills development opportunities.**

“This funding has come out of a really long time of working together to devise impactful projects that will benefit the people of St Ives. We are delighted that the funding has now been transferred from Government to Cornwall Council.

“We will now be working with the project leads and Cornwall Council to ensure that contracts are signed as quickly as possible so that work can officially begin on delivering these exciting and ambitious projects”.

With initial funds in place, contracts will be issued in the coming months to enable projects to go forward with their plans. These may include commissioning staff and contractors, submitting planning applications if required and securing additional match funding.

While the smaller scale projects will be completed early in the programme, the larger scale transformation projects, which are more complex and may require additional external funding and approval, will take longer to deliver. However, all are expected to be completed by the end of the Town Deal programme in March 2026.

The nine St Ives Town Deal projects submitted to Government are:

- [Old Vicarage Flats](#)
- [Guildhall](#)
- [St Ives Theatre](#)
- [Leach Pottery and Digital Trail](#)
- [St Ives Community Orchard](#)
- [Delegated Fund for Renewal](#)
- [Low Carbon Transport](#)
- [Rugby Club / Affordable Housing](#)
- [LiveWest retrofit scheme](#)

Councillor Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council’s portfolio holder for economy, said **“With the first year of funding now in place, St Ives can now start to deliver on the projects that will make a difference to its community. So much work has gone on behind the scenes to get to where we are today and confirmation that projects can now progress is testament to the commitment and vision of the Town Deal Board.**

“Cornwall Council will itself be delivering 11 ambitious projects across the four areas using Town Deal funding to improve connectivity, public spaces, housing and offer grants to businesses. I have no doubt that these investments will revitalise the town – and city – centres, improving life for residents and creating sustainable communities now and into the future.”

“This announcement is fantastic news for St Ives” said MP Derek Thomas. **“Local people, many of whom have been volunteers, have really given their time and effort to securing this Town Deal funding. I am very pleased but also relieved that we can now get on with spending this money and make a real difference to our town.**

“However, the Town Deal process has not just been about how we spend this money. It is also about how it has enabled us to identify our ideas and visions for future opportunities for St Ives. As we work together to deliver the Town Deal projects, we will also be continuing to develop these other ideas so that we are ready to take advantage of other sources of funding as they arise”.

More information about the St Ives Town Deal programme is available on our website www.stivestownddeal.org.uk/

You can also view a short film about the St Ives Town Deal programme [here](#)

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Notes to Editor

Government Towns Fund – Town Deals

On 27 July 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Towns Fund would support an initial 101 places across England to develop Town Deal proposals to drive economic regeneration and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth. See further details of the [announcement](#).

A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. It will set out a vision and strategy for the town, and what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision. [See the 101 places being supported to develop Town Deals](#).

Town Deals and Accelerated Towns Fund in Cornwall

Cornwall is the only area in England invited by Government to submit proposals for four of its towns: Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro. After conducting extensive public consultations each Town Deal Board submitted their Town Investment Plan in collaboration with Cornwall Council in Jan 2021.

As a result of this work, in Spring 2021 the government announced the following:

Camborne - up to £23.7million of Town Deal Funding

Penzance – up to £21.5 million of Town Deal Funding

St Ives - up to £19.9 million of Town Deal Funding

Truro - up to £23.6 million of Town Deal Funding

Each of the 101 towns selected to work towards a Town Deal also received accelerated funding for investment in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places “build back better” in the wake of Covid-19. View a list of [accelerated funding by place](#) (PDF, 266 KB, 11 pages).

The Accelerator Funding allocation in Cornwall is as follows:

Camborne - £750,000

Penzance – £500,000

St Ives - £500,00

Truro - £750,000

Cornwall Council is the Accountable Body for the Towns Fund programme in Cornwall. Cornwall Council supports the governance role of the Board and is responsible for managing and administering funds on behalf of the four Town Deal Boards.

For more information visit: www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund

St Ives Town Deal Board

A St Ives Town Team Board, containing a mix of representatives from the private, public and community sectors, was set up to lead the development of the Town Investment Plan. This includes councillors from Cornwall Council and St Ives Town Council, local businesses, community stakeholders and the area’s MP.

On 9 May 2021 the Board successfully bid for a Town Deal worth £19.9 million.

All project ideas, suggestions and contributions for inclusion in the Town Investment Plan had to be tested against the government’s criteria and guidelines for Regeneration, Skills provision and Connectivity. They were then assessed to ensure that they were viable and sustainable. The Board worked closely with the community to develop an initial long list of 40 projects. These were then assessed using a robust project selection and management process to produce the short-list of projects set out in the Town Investment Plan.

The nine St Ives Town Deal projects are:

Low Carbon Transport – this project includes the development of an integrated low carbon transport system for the town centre at peak times to help reduce congestion, cut carbon emissions and increase clean and active modes of travel.

Rugby Club/ Affordable Housing - this project involves a major repositioning and refurbishment of the Rugby Club facilities which are sited on land owned by Cornwall Council. There are currently no high-quality sports facilities for the community in St Ives. This project will create a modern clubhouse facility with two full size sports pitches for use by the club and the local community and, in addition, will free up land to create new affordable homes for key workers and extra care housing as well as improved sports facilities.

Old Vicarage Flats - run and operated by the St Ives Community Land Trust, this project will see the renovation of the Old Vicarage building to provide 6 high quality and affordable flats for local residents in the heart of the town

LiveWest retrofit scheme - this project involves carrying out an energy-efficient retrofitting programme to 200 of the worst performing social housing properties in the town. The work, which will be led by LiveWest, will improve the thermal efficiency of the buildings, and reduce drafts, heat loss, and the reliance on carbon based heating systems, creating greener homes which are cheaper and warmer for people to live in. The project will also work with residents in the town to integrate sustainable transport and waste & recycling improvements into estates in the town and help to develop local green skills and employment opportunities.

Delegated Fund for Renewal – this project will provide grants to micro, small and medium sized businesses within the St Ives Town Deal area, including start up and scale up businesses. The Fund will support capital investments that help local businesses to grow and develop and that help to diversify the local economy and generate quality local employment opportunities and stronger local supply chains. Grants will range in size from £2,500 to £150,000 and will need to be matched with funds from applicants (between 25-45% guide match).

Guildhall – a much-loved building in St Ives, the Guildhall is in need of extensive restoration and improvement. The aim of this project is to develop the building into a thriving cultural venue together with a café and bar space. As well as safeguarding the future of an important heritage building, the project will provide a high-quality year-round programme for all potential audiences in St Ives and West Cornwall, develop the town's role as a national centre of heritage, arts and culture and provide opportunities for careers in creative arts.

St Ives Theatre – this project includes reconfiguring and upgrading the existing theatre, the home of [Kidz R Us](#), who have been working with young people in St Ives and the surrounding areas for almost 30 years, to provide an extended auditorium and new café/bar and reception area. As well as saving a historic building, the project will help to develop the existing theatre into a leading tourist attraction for the town, lengthening the season with more performances, daytime workshops and outreach programmes for schools and providing a facility for touring theatrical companies; improving the visitor experience and supporting further expansion of theatre opportunities for local children and young people. This will help to provide more permanent jobs and support the charity in its aims of introducing young performers and young audiences to the performing arts.

Leach Pottery and Digital Trail - investment in the Leach Pottery will create a community hub where local people and visitors can come together to train, develop their creativity, improve their wellbeing, support each other and bring clay to life. A new production studio and learning space on this world-class site will create new all year-round jobs, providing additional training, work facilities and apprenticeships. The creation of a St Ives Digital trail will highlight opportunities for locals and visitors to explore St Ives away from congested high traffic areas. This will bring economic benefits to organisations on the trail and to the wider town as people explore previously "hidden" areas. This is a large-scale transformational project which will require additional external funding.

St Ives Community Orchard - based at the St Ives Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve, 30 acres of beautiful green space overlooking the town, this project will provide a vibrant community asset, delivering environmental education, mental and health therapy, community events and nature-based training to individuals, local groups and schools. A new

environmentally sustainable building will provide daily workshops and training all year round on subjects such as permaculture, beekeeping, willow weaving, herbal remedies and cosmetics, natural dyes, brewing and grafting: all using materials grown and produced on site in an expanded community garden and orchard. The project will also create new jobs and provide opportunities for local self-employed trainers to share their knowledge and skills as well as a community space for meetings and a repair cafe.

