



## **St Ives Town Deal Enterprise Grants scheme launches £1m fund for new flagship training and skills centre**

27 July 2023

St Ives Town Deal Enterprise Grants scheme is seeking expressions of interest from organisations to create a new flagship centre for providing high quality training, technology and digital skills opportunities in the town.

Part of the St Ives Town Deal regeneration programme, the project will be funded through a new £1m Training and Skills Capital Fund.

Aimed at improving facilities for delivering training and skills in St Ives through face to face and digitally delivered means, and increasing accessibility to digital technologies for both businesses and residents, the project will help to ensure that the town plays a full role in the fast-growing high-tech community in Cornwall and the wider region.

**“We are inviting expressions of interest from organisations to deliver a major capital project to create a high quality, digitally enabled flagship centre for training, technology and digital skills within the St Ives Town Deal area”,** said Town Deal Enterprise Grant Co-ordinator Elizabeth Gilbert.

**“Applicants will need to show how they will engage with skills providers and explain how their project will enable better training and skills access in St Ives and fuel growth in the digital / tech sector, making sure that every resident has access to the digital and data skills required in the modern world.”**

Building on the work of Cornwall Council’s Digital Futures Programme and the Digital Skills Partnership Strategy, the new centre will be expected to:

- Improve access to digital technologies for young people and adults in the St Ives Town Deal area through improved access to training and skills development opportunities.
- Increase the number of young people and adults with relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship
- Increase the number of start-ups/scale-ups being helped with digital skills awareness and provision
- Ensure more local businesses have access to local people with appropriate training, qualifications and skills, including digital skills
- Help local businesses to grow and participate in the digital economy.

As well as enabling access to emerging creative digital technologies, including VR and rapid product prototyping and testing; the new centre could offer shared technical support for recording and filming and editing and managing web and other platforms, and provide training spaces, workspace and meeting /

collaboration space for use by the local community and start-ups or micro businesses.

The Training and Skills Capital Fund will provide up to £1m towards the capital cost of providing the new centre, such as building works and equipment. Other costs, such as salaries, software and training provision must come from other sources.

The centre must be located within the St Ives Town Deal area.

**“This is a very exciting project which is designed to help more local people acquire skills and secure higher paid jobs,”** said Gareth Jones, Vice Chair of St Ives Town Deal Board. **“It will also help existing local businesses to expand and diversify into new growth sectors, and support new start-ups in the fast growing digital economy.”**

Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council cabinet member for economy, said: **“Cornwall is at the forefront of digital innovation and skills development. Cornwall’s digital sector has grown by 76% since 2010, and we’re committed to help it grow and flourish even more. This initiative will bring St Ives into the digital fold and ensure its residents and businesses benefit from this thriving industry and play their part in its future success.”**

The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is 9 am on Monday, August 21. These will be reviewed by the St Ives Town Deal Board in September, with successful applications receiving invitations to submit full applications in early October.

For more information about the project please contact Town Deal Enterprise Grants Co-ordinator Elizabeth Gilbert at [liz.gilbert@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:liz.gilbert@cornwall.gov.uk)

Ends

### **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](#).

Each of the 101 towns selected to work towards a Town Deal also received accelerated funding last year 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)

### **St Ives Town Deal and Accelerated Town Fund**

In June 2021, St Ives secured a Town Deal of up to £19.9 million following the successful submission of its Town Investment Plan for a range of regeneration projects.

In addition, each of the towns selected by the government to work towards a Town Deal were invited to apply for accelerated funding to invest in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places 'build back better' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. St Ives was allocated £500,000 through the Government's Accelerator Fund to kick start the delivery of projects in 2020.

For more information about St Ives Town Deal visit [www.stivestowndeal.org.uk](http://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk)

Cornwall is the only area invited by the 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. As a result, the Government announced in spring 2021, that Cornwall will receive up to £88.7 million from the Town Deal Fund.

Cornwall Council is the Lead Authority for the Town Deals in Cornwall. Cornwall Council supports the governance role of the Camborne Town Deal Board and is responsible for administering the Fund on behalf of Town Deal Board. For more information visit: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund)

### **St Ives Town Deal Enterprise Grants**

The Enterprise Grants scheme is one of nine projects which are funded by the Government as part of the £19.9million Town Deal for St Ives. The funding aims to boost the economy of the regions and support sustainable regeneration.

#### **Priorities**

- To support St Ives and its business community to adapt to a changing economic environment caused by global and national issues by awarding capital grants to businesses to enable them to adapt and grow in their operations.
- To support new start-ups, scale ups and businesses who want to diversify their offering into new growth sectors
- To support individual businesses to develop and grow to achieve sustainable growth and create new employment for local people
- To support projects that create high value employment, for example year-round, above average salaries and progression opportunities
- To add value to other Town Improvement Plan projects by supporting businesses which in turn will engage with TIP projects