



## One Year On: How the Town Deal is Regenerating St Ives

9 October 2023

**You can watch a short film about the first year of St Ives Town Deal [here](#)**

One year after Cornwall received its first share of Town Deal funding from the Government, six out of the nine approved projects in St Ives are now well underway.

In 2021, St Ives was among 100 places in the country to be awarded a share of the £3.6bn Town Deal funding by the Government as part its Levelling Up ambition, securing a deal of £19.9 million to regenerate the town. The plans include creating a low carbon transport system, supporting local business and jobs, and developing new skills and supply chains, as well as providing new and transformed housing and community assets.

**“We are delighted that six of our projects – St Ives Theatre, the Rugby Club Relocation and Housing, the Guildhall, Leach Pottery, the Enterprise Grants and St Ives Community Orchard - have been contracted and received their first grant payments, enabling work to begin on delivering these exciting and ambitious schemes,”** said Gareth Jones, Vice Chair of St Ives Town Deal Board.

**“This has involved a huge amount of ‘behind the scenes’ activity, including refining designs, securing match funding, commissioning staff and contractors, submitting planning applications, developing and issuing tenders.**

**“We are continuing to work with the remaining projects and look forward to seeing their contracts issued later this year to enable them to move forward with their plans.”**

- **The Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve** on Penbeagle Hill became the first St Ives project to be given a grant worth, £329,000 from the Town Deal. Construction of the circular environmentally sustainable facility which started in May is set to be completed at the end of this year. Once open in early 2024, it will offer an environmental education programme including workshops, skills and nature-based training as well as community events to individuals, local groups and schools. You can find out more here [here](#)

**You can watch a short film about what has been happening with the Community Orchard project [here](#)**

- **St Ives Town Deal Enterprise Grants Scheme** also launched earlier in May. Designed to help revitalise and broaden the local economy, the scheme provides grants between £2,500 and £150,000 to both existing and new small and medium size businesses in the St Ives, Lelant and Carbis Bay areas to improve or extend their buildings or purchase new equipment.

The 29 applications received during the first round with grants expected to be given out during the next few weeks. The second round for grants under £50,000 is reopening in October. You can find out more here [here](#) .

In addition, a £1 million fund to create a new flagship centre to provide high quality training, technology and digital skills opportunities in the town was launched this summer. The project team are currently reviewing the initial expressions of interest they received and will be contacting successful applicants to submit full applications in October.

- **The Leach Pottery and Digital Trail projects** received £530,000 from the Town Deal last June. The project successfully received planning permission for the first phase of the £4.9 million project to create a community hub with a new production studio and learning space at the world-renowned site.

The Leach Pottery team are using the Town Deal funding to secure additional external investment, with work on constructing the new buildings currently due to begin next summer (2024). You can find out more here [here](#) .

**You can watch a short film about what has been happening with the Leach Pottery project [here](#)**

- **The St Ives Guildhall Renewal** project received its first grant payment of £308,000 in July 2023, marking an exciting step forward in the plans to restore the building and confirming its role as the civic and cultural heart of the town while re-imagining it for future generations.

The work to submit the planning application is progressing following the engagement activities that took place with various local community groups this summer. The Guildhall is closing its doors to the public in October, enabling work to begin on the transformation project, with the building currently due to re—open in spring 2025. You can find out more here [here](#) .

**You can watch a short film about what has been happening with the Guildhall project [here](#)**

- **The Rugby Club and Housing Scheme** is developing with the contract being signed off in September and the submission of the planning application underway. The repositioning the clubhouse facilities will provide a modern clubhouse with two full size sports pitches for use by the club and local community at the same time as freeing up land for the potential delivery of much needed extra care homes and affordable housing for local people.
- **St Ives Theatre** is the latest project to be receiving its first Town Deal grant worth, £109,000 last week. The venue run by Kidz R Us, will be closing their doors temporarily this winter to allow work to begin on the second phase of the refurbishment. The £1.5m project will see the historic building reconfigured and upgraded to provide an extended auditorium and new cafe / bar and reception

area, with the aim of creating new jobs and increasing incomes for the charity. You can find out more [here](#)

## **So what is next for the St Ives Town Deal programme?**

The public consultation for the Low carbon transport scheme will start on Monday 27th November. The draft interventions will be presented at a public exhibition at St Ives Library to enable the local community to give their views on the proposals.

In the meantime, work is ongoing between the project teams and Cornwall Council to get remaining projects, such as the refurbishment of the Old Vicarage Flats by St Ives Community Land Trust and the energy retrofit housing programme lead by LiveWest, into contract.

You can find out more about both projects [here](#)

**“Next year will be another significant year for our Town Deal programme as more of our projects enter their construction phase,”** said Libby Buckley, Vice Chair of St Ives Town Deal Board. **“It has been great to see everyone come together, not just to work on the projects they are interested in themselves, but on all aspects of the programme.”**

**“Delivering these exciting and ambitious projects will revitalise our town, improving life for residents and creating sustainable communities now and into the future. It has been a massive, combined effort to get the projects through to the stage that they’re at now and we are looking forward to seeing all of them completed by the Government’s Town Deal funding deadline of March 2026.”**

**Ends**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About the UK Government Town Deals programme**

Part of the government’s plan for Levelling Up the UK economy and the wider Towns Fund, the Town Deals programme aims to regenerate towns and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth. This is through investments in urban regeneration, digital and physical connectivity, skills, heritage and enterprise infrastructure. As of July 2021, DLUHC have offered Town Deals to all 101 places that submitted proposals, committing over £2.35bn of investment across c.700 projects nationwide. [See the press releases associated with Town Deals on gov.uk.](#)

#### **About the St Ives Town Deal**

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. For more information about St Ives Town Deal visit [www.stivestowndea.org.uk](http://www.stivestowndea.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 Deals programme.

Cornwall Council is the Lead Authority for the Town Deals in Cornwall. Cornwall Council supports the governance role of St Ives Town Deal Board and is responsible for administering the Fund on behalf of the 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)