

# News release

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003

## Commission rewards Programme success

Today sees the first public accolade from the Commission for the successful performance of the first half of the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The Programme has received an additional 5.15% on top of the total Objective One budget for meeting all its performance related targets.

Richard Bayly, Director of Government Office for the South West in Devon and Cornwall said, "This award is a vote of confidence by the European Commission and the UK Government in the way Objective One has been implemented in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

"The European programmes all plan for a 4 % performance bonus so it is particularly pleasing that the Objective One programme in Cornwall has exceeded this, winning almost £7 million more than the usual award."

And it is in the incremental uplift of the award that the Commission and UK Government are signalling their acknowledgement of the unique attributes of the Programme here in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Attributes that mark a new confidence and ambition in piloting different projects, in laying down long term investment plans that transcend political cycles and in looking outward to forge partnerships that will accelerate the evolution of our economy towards the future that awaits us in the 21st century.

County Council Leader John Lobb says, "This is a tremendous accolade for the Objective One Partnership. For the EC to recognise our partnership structure and the overall ambition of our projects is a clear sign they consider the Programme to be a model of best practice."

And sincere thanks to all of you who have given such energy and commitment to the Programme in helping us all achieve this accolade today and in laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth.

Now to the second half – which is often the hardest part. We need to build on our strengths and lessons learnt and follow through with the timely development of complex capital projects that will underpin our infrastructure for a more knowledge based economy.

Money isn't the issue. Maintaining our ambition and making the difference in the limited time we have left is what matters.

This is our Programme and working together we can confidently 'make it happen'.

Thank you.

Carleen Kelemen  
Director, Objective One Partnership

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## Full media release – Commission rewards Programme success

The Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has performed so well in its first three years that the European Commission has invested a further £17.15 million performance bonus in the Programme.

The discretionary payment is a huge vote of confidence in what the Programme has achieved in its first three years.

It also demonstrates the Commission's confidence that Objective One will continue to invest wisely for the long term economic benefit of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Carleen Kelemen, Director of the Objective One Partnership, said: "This announcement is fantastic news. Europe has judged our performance based on our finances, the quality of our projects and our results.

"For the first time, the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has been independently assessed against stringent performance criteria. We've not only met those criteria but exceeded them.

"This performance bonus is a credit to the strength of the partnership delivering Objective One in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and is a huge vote of confidence as we enter the second half of the Programme.

"I want to thank all the organisations and individuals, within and without Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly whose commitment has brought about this achievement."

The £17.15 million bonus payment amounts to 5.15% of the total value of the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, which runs from 2000 to 2006.

The European Commission made it clear at the start of Objective One that it would reward regions that performed well with extra investment but today's announcement is far in excess of what was anticipated, and reflects the high regard that Europe and the UK Government has for the Programme.

Ms Kelemen added: "We cannot afford to be complacent, because there is still a huge amount to be done. This additional funding will be invested in regenerating Cornwall's key towns, supporting infrastructure projects and helping to fund the next phase of the Combined Universities in Cornwall, all of which will contribute to the long term economic development of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly."

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Editors' notes:

As part of the current round of Objective One Programmes the EC made provision for a payment at the mid term point to successful Programmes. The payments would be made from funds held back by the EC from all Programmes (4% of the total) and 'success' would be measured on the basis of 3 criteria:

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1. Financial – for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Programme a total of £96m had to be spent by the end of 2003 – this figure was exceeded by around £20m. €60m (around £40m) of private sector funding was to be committed to projects by the end of 2003 – nearly £100m was actually committed.
2. Management Criteria – the criteria was set out in the EC regulations and included the Managing Authority having systems in place to ensure quality in terms of appraisal and monitoring of projects.
3. Effectiveness – Targets for outputs and results were agreed with the EC at the start of the programme, and 75% of these targets would need to be met or exceeded. The Programme achieved 98% of its targets.

The EC made clear that it would consider awarding the best performing programmes higher than the 4% retained. The success of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly programme has resulted in an award of 5.15%, totalling €25.653m (around £17.15m at current exchange rates).

This performance bonus, against the norm of 4%, reflects the high regard in which the Programme is held by the European Commission and Central Government and is a tribute to the effective working of the Partnership in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It reflects also the quality of the projects that have been coming forward in the first half of the Programme which will provide a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth in the region.

It is expected that the additional funding will be available to the Programme from 1 April 2004.

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