

FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



University
of Exeter

CIVIC UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT

September 2023



INTRODUCTION

Being a civic university means being authentically linked to a place and a community, responsive to its needs and committed to its success.

Falmouth University and the University of Exeter Cornwall, while distinct in their institutional strategies and specialisms, share a strong commitment to supporting Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly’s growth and prosperity. This has been the driving force for developing the Universities’ presence in the region over the last two decades, creating new economic and educational opportunities and catalysing the region’s knowledge and skills. As major local employers, as well as a dynamic hub for pioneering education, research and knowledge exchange, the Universities play a vital role in the economic, social and cultural life of the region, working both separately and together on civic activities.

This Civic University Agreement is an opportunity to advance and amplify the impact of the Universities’ shared and complementary strengths, embedding partner and community collaboration into their strategic decision making.

Thousands of residents helped shape *Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan 2020-50* and this has informed our thinking as we drafted this Agreement. Developed through public and partner engagement, this Agreement sets out four shared key priorities:

- Green Futures**
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Healthy Futures**
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Fair Futures**
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Creative Futures**
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

We are energised by the opportunity for the Universities to contribute to the future we want for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, through all of our core areas of activity:

Our community impact:
using the Universities’ economic power to support local employment and supply chains, sharing our spaces and working with the local community.

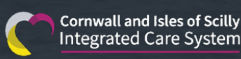
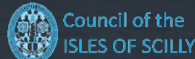
Our teaching and skills:
creating new ways to raise aspiration and attainment, and widening access to skills and training targeted at the region’s specific needs

Our research and knowledge exchange:
generating world-leading research, innovation and enterprise that showcases Cornwall and Isles of Scilly globally, and that is locally relevant and supported by strong regional partnerships to accelerate local impact.

Together we can achieve more for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The two Universities will continue to invest in our Cornwall campuses as opportunities arise, with the support of (and potentially in partnership with) Cornwall Council. We welcome partners’ support in growing the Universities’ contribution to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly economy, whether through collaboration on funding bids leveraging investment into the region, ensuring research findings are applied locally to improve outcomes for residents, developing our teaching programmes, or supporting our students to contribute their creativity, entrepreneurial flair and skills as part of the local workforce.

Professor Lisa Roberts
Professor Emma Hunt
Linda Taylor

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter Cornwall
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Falmouth University
Leader, Cornwall Council and Chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board
Chairman, Council of the Isles of Scilly
Chair of NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board



OUR PRIORITIES

Our priorities define the outcomes we want to achieve through this Agreement and our collaborative approach to delivering real impact for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We have identified four priorities which have been developed to align with partners' shared vision and goals for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, as articulated in *Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan 2020-2050*; and with the Universities' expertise and resources.

Green Futures Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Working for sustainable food, land and seas and a creative carbon zero economy, leaving more nature for future generations.

Healthy Futures Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

A shared commitment to create healthy, safe and resilient communities where people live well for longer.

Fair Futures Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Supporting thriving places with decent homes, and strengthening equality, education and entrepreneurship with opportunities for lifelong learning and skills development so that we close the gap in life chances and create a fairer, more inclusive society

Creative Futures Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Celebrating the region's cultural heritage and supporting partners' shared goals for a leading rural creative economy and a digital revolution for sustainable living where talented people earning a good living from their creative and digital skills.



GREEN FUTURES CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

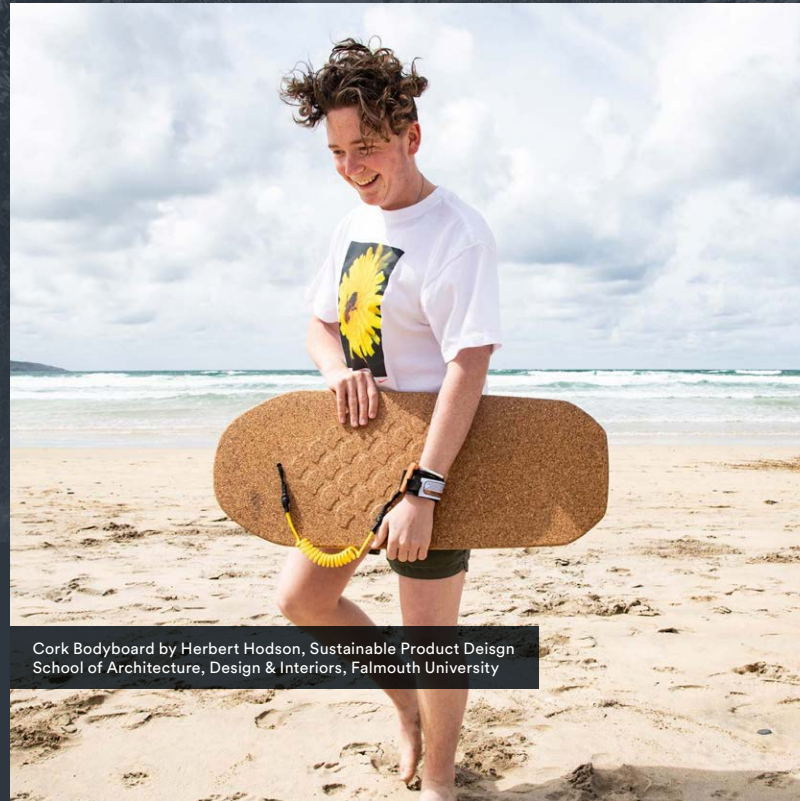
Protecting and enhancing the environment is crucial for the future of our local communities and for our global climate and ecological survival.

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, with its rich and remarkable natural world all around us, the need to act for the environment is profoundly clear.

The Universities have both committed to plans to achieve carbon neutrality and to support Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's transition to net zero. But more than that, both institutions understand that as places of advanced research and knowledge, and as educators of future global innovators, business leaders and entrepreneurs, we have an important role in driving policy and behaviour change and providing new ideas and solutions to difficult global problems.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have exceptional natural capital assets alongside unique strengths in minerals and mining expertise critical for the transition to net zero. Growth in our green and blue economy will support new jobs, while innovations in renewable and marine technology, exploitation of our critical mineral deposits will create new business opportunities.

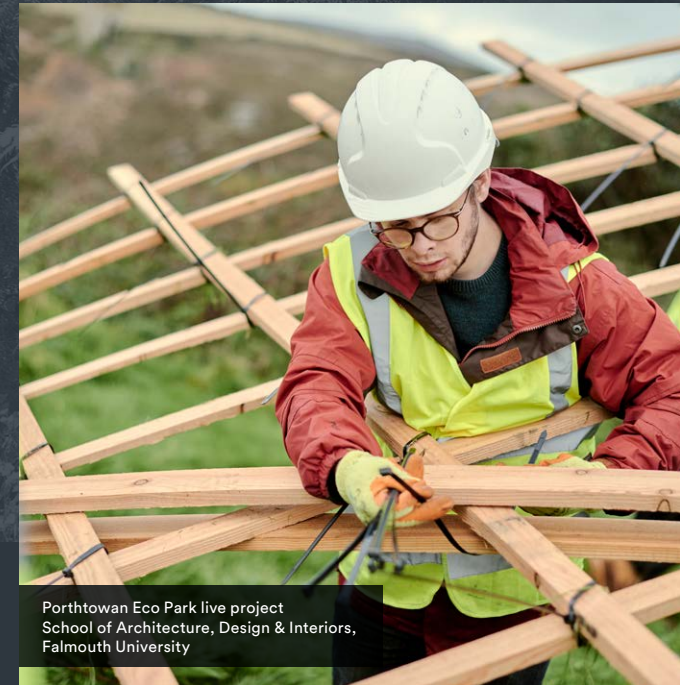
Additionally, the acceleration of the adoption of circular economy approaches, initiatives to promote behaviour change and new creative innovations to pivot Cornwall's dominant industry sectors to sustainability-led practices will put Cornwall at the forefront of the decarbonised national economy.



Cork Bodyboard by Herbert Hodson, Sustainable Product Design School of Architecture, Design & Interiors, Falmouth University



Ecological survey of Penryn Campus Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter Cornwall



Porthtowan Eco Park live project School of Architecture, Design & Interiors, Falmouth University



The Sustainability Café Penryn Campus



Ecological survey of Penryn Campus Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter Cornwall

HEALTHY FUTURES CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

Health and wellbeing are intrinsically linked to factors such as housing, social and community bonds, participation in creative and physical activities, time spent outdoors in natural environments and inequalities in all their forms.

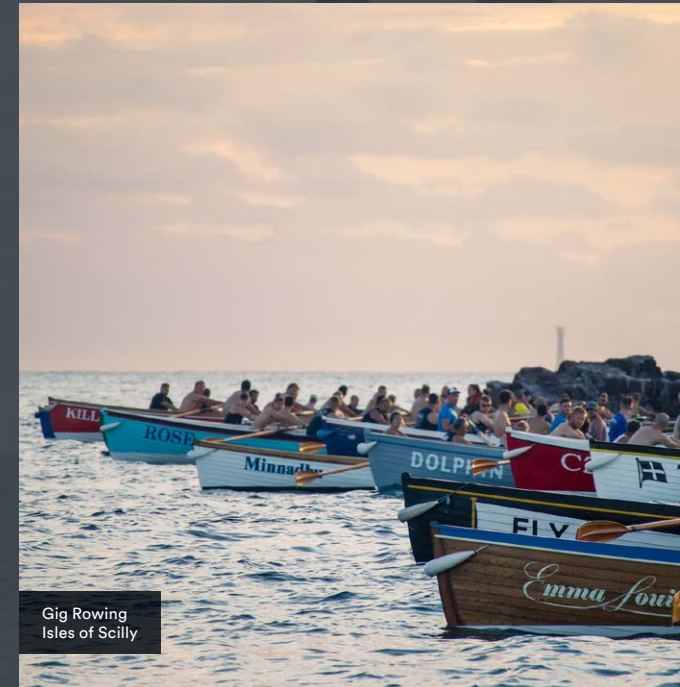
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have deep and persistent inequalities in health and wealth.

The Universities will work together with partners to bring their collective strengths to contribute to addressing these challenges, through the harnessing of their teaching, research and knowledge exchange, and through access to their cutting-edge facilities and resources.

Together, our focus is on tackling social isolation, fostering compassionate communities and enabling people to support their health and well-being through active participation, as well as on growing the region's health and care workforce and improving health outcomes through new innovation.



The Sports Centre
Penryn Campus



Gig Rowing
Isles of Scilly



Our grounds
Penryn Campus



Health research
Microbiology labs,
University of Exeter Cornwall



The Wave
Laura Bailey, Institute of Photography, Falmouth University

FAIR FUTURES CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have received significant investment over the last three decades to develop the economy and enable it to prosper. While much has been achieved, the returns have not been felt by everyone.

The Civic University Agreement will support efforts to tackle inequality and exclusion, including through widened participation in training and skills, increased access to cultural and educational programming,

raised aspirations, improved social mobility and narrower attainment gaps.

Our activity will be inclusive and consultative, strengthening community engagement in our work, ensuring we are a good neighbour to local residents, facilitating community use of our spaces and using our considerable spend with third party suppliers to support local businesses and jobs.



Placement at Ocean BMW
Cornwall Business School, Falmouth University



wAVE (Augmented and Virtual Experiences) research project
by Falmouth University in collaboration with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP and the Cornwall Museums Partnership



Falmouth University students designed an immersive experience in collaboration with the Immersive Business project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund and led by Falmouth University in collaboration with the University of Exeter Cornwall



Biological research
Environment and Sustainability Institute,
University of Exeter Cornwall



Inspiration at the Eden Project
School of Writing & Journalism, Falmouth University

CREATIVE FUTURES CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are globally renowned for their cultural heritage and creative expertise. What's more, this has always been underpinned by an entrepreneurial spirit that drives ideas and innovation.

The Universities are well placed to work with partners to foster a creative and cultural landscape that nourishes the people who live here, promotes inclusive, connected communities and grows Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's reputation as a place at the forefront of the UK's creative and digital industries.

Through business support and knowledge exchange in creativity and technology, through civic activity, partners will help accelerate the growth of the backbone of the local economy; our SME base.



Millie Churches
Fine Art, Falmouth University



The Minack Theatre
Porthcurno, Penzance



Interactive display
Camborne School of Mines,
University of Exeter Cornwall



Immersive Business Lab
Falmouth University



Isles of Scilly
Museum

SETTING OUR PRIORITIES, MEASURING OUR IMPACT AND GROWING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

This Agreement will be overseen by a Civic University Partnership Board.

To ensure that this Agreement provides real impact for people and communities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, this document will be underpinned by an annual programme of work which will be formally reviewed at bi-annual Board meetings.

To embed collaborative community engagement and ensure that the priorities of the Partnership are evolving in line with the priorities of the community, we will host three workshop-style engagement sessions yearly with partners and local stakeholders to inform and update our civic ambitions and to identify fresh priorities for the period ahead.

We intend that this regular cadence of public engagement and a clear planning and reporting cycle will ensure that we are transparent and accountable, and that the Agreement continues to evolve in an agile, organic way, responsive to the changing needs of our community.

As our collaboration develops, we will work with more stakeholders from across the civic landscape and we hope that we will engage additional partners as formal signatories to this Agreement.



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of Exeter

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