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**Cornwall Council – RDPE in  
Action**

# RDPE in West Cornwall

- Has supported a number of key projects
- It works best when the rules are interpreted appropriately but imaginatively
- It underpins a significant amount of activity where it forms one element of an overall funding cocktail – it therefore has the capacity to deliver very wide outcomes – wider than might be interpreted from a narrow view of it

# Work with Farmers

- The Farm Cornwall business support initiative is a classic example of RDPE making a difference
- It supports a farm adviser and office resource and works with all farmers – divided into 4 categories of capacity/success to underpin the broad viability of agriculture in West Cornwall
- It is led and managed by successful local farmers – which not only focuses its effectiveness but builds their capacity
- A digest of the recent article published in the Journal of Small Business Enterprise Development will be made available via the RDPE Network website

# Local Authorities

- In Cornwall without the role of the local authority as local animator many of the successful and broader “joining up” impacts of RDPE would not be achieved.
- Going forward the ability to use it as part of a strategy to underpin (often not through direct application of the funding itself) little things like supporting best practice visits and procuring flexible and training based materials and equipment would not happen.
- These little things often have a disproportionately large impact in sustaining the effectiveness and competitiveness of rural communities and businesses

# The Future

- The current uncertainty about the future of public sector funding in the context of RDPE and its administration and the transitional impacts of Council Change are a very significant challenge.
- RDPE, particularly at the LAG level, has the scope to make a real difference as set out in the preceding slides and there is a danger that this will be compromised without pertinent and effective planning in the short term.