

## **CLOSED: Future Peninsula 3: Access to Employment project call in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP (0C05S19P1434)**

Call to run a project to engage economically inactive and unemployed people in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP area.

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## **Somali National Army Personnel graduate from UK led training in Baidoa**

This month, the Somali National Army celebrated the graduation of a further 98 soldiers from British military training in Baidoa, the capital of Southwest State in Somalia.

The UK has built a training centre in Baidoa, including a state-of-the-art firing range that was opened by Southwest State's President, Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen, and the UK's Africa Minister, Andrew Stephenson, on 21 August. Construction of 450 barracks for the Somali army has just started on the same site.

The 16-week training, involving a mix of theory and practical lessons, covered defensive positions, vehicle check points, dealing with improvised explosive devices, first aid, safe weapon handling and leadership.

The UK training has already shown its value. Attacks in Baidoa have fallen since the Somali army built defensive positions around the city as part of their course, and some of those on the course used their new skills in a successful attack against Al Shabaab in the area of Daynunay this month.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, the Commander of British Forces in Somalia, Colonel JL Baynham, said:

The training is being delivered by highly experienced specialists. It's focused on building really strong infantry skills, which are what the Somali army most needs to defeat Al Shabaab. The Somali soldiers are very able and keen to learn. We are already seeing the benefits, for the individuals, their units and the security of the area.

The British Ambassador to Somalia, Ben Fender, said:

The Somalis are working to improve security after decades of conflict and terrorism. The UK is a major partner and the only country providing military training outside Mogadishu. Baidoa is a vital location in the fight against Al Shabaab. We need to stay the course, but over the last year, Somalia has made real progress towards building its future army, and in conducting operations. We're delighted to support that.

The course is part of an on-going programme of support to the Somali National Army's 60 Division. Graduates will now receive additional medical, planning and command training.

The UK has delivered training to over 900 members of the Somali National Army since January 2017. The focus has been on medical skills, leadership development, intelligence, equipment care, logistics and the rule of law.

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## **Government pledges £30 million to bolster ports for Brexit**

Funding to ensure that trade continues to flow smoothly at UK ports after 31 October 2019.

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## **Government pledges £30 million to bolster ports for Brexit**

- £30 million will be spent on upgrades to port infrastructure, road and rail links and build resilience within local government
- funding will ensure trade continues to flow smoothly at our ports after Brexit on 31 October 2019, whatever the circumstances

The country's ports will continue to thrive after Brexit thanks to £30 million of investment from the government, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced today (30 August 2019).

The Department for Transport is today calling on ports across England to bid for a share of £10 million, as part of the Port Infrastructure Resilience and Connectivity (PIRC) competition, to help deliver upgrades which will enhance

capacity and maintain trade flow.

On top of this, the government is providing £5 million to 4 key Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) – made up of emergency responders, councils and other public services – in areas with key freight ports. This will help them build infrastructure improvements to minimise any potential traffic disruption at the border.

A further £15 million will go towards longer-term projects to boost road and rail links to ports and ensure more freight can get where it needs to be faster.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

We are leaving the EU on 31 October and we will be prepared whatever the circumstances.

As the UK continues to develop as an outward-facing global trading nation ready for a post-Brexit world, the resilience of our trading hubs is more critical than ever before.

This £30 million investment supports our ports in their work to boost capacity and efficiency, ensuring they're ready for Brexit and a successful future.

The funding comes as part of the government's £2.1 billion investment to step-up the country's preparations for leaving the EU.

The PIRC competition will be open until 6 September, after which successful bidders will be given up to £1 million each to deliver infrastructure improvements. For example, this may include providing more HGV parking and container storage space or developing traffic systems to ensure the free flow of cars and lorries.

The £5 million for key LRFs is targeted specifically at delivering infrastructure improvements to manage road traffic around maritime ports with important trade routes with the EU.

It comes a week after the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a separate [£9 million scheme](#) for local councils and LRFs to support their overall planning for Brexit in local areas and major air, land or sea ports. This funding could include supporting the hiring of additional staff or implementing regional communications campaigns.

The Department for Transport continues to prepare for all circumstances after 31 October and has been implementing a multi-channel information campaign to ensure [hauliers have the documents they need to carry goods into the EU](#).

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# **Response to Public Accounts Committee: Transforming courts and tribunals**

HMCTS and MOJ responses to Public Accounts Committee's recommendations,  
Fifty-Sixth Report of Session 2017 to 2019.