

CORNWALL COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: PRIORITIES PLAN 2026-2030

Held 7th January 2026 via MS Teams

About half a dozen councillors, including me, attended. Presentations from Leigh Frost (Council Leader), Adam Paynter (Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Resources), Kate Kennally (Chief Executive). Also present was Katey Durkin (Service Director – Resources and Performance) and Derk Van der Wardt (Consultation and Engagement Manager)

New administration so new priorities which will be actioned – these are not a wish list. The priorities are: homes; clean, green Cornwall; resilient economy; a caring place for families and children; healthy and dignified lives; and transport.

Basically Cllr Frost ran through the document Council Priorities 2026-30 (which can be found on this webpage <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/priorities>) so will not go into any more detail. These priorities will feed into the longer term Cornwall Plan 2020-2050.

Aware that new housing required by government and also there is an ageing construction workforce (average age is 59) so need to skill up new workers.

Finances

Will follow guiding financial principles as laid out on last page of the document.

The government announced 17th December 2025 that they will provide a financial settlement for the next three years to enable councils to budget better. Assumes council tax will increase by 4.99%.

First year investment: as laid out in 2026-27 budget. £36m for children and families; £37m adult social care; £8m core frontline services eg waste; £9m housing, transport, environmental services, economic growth etc; £3m fire services improvements

Savings will come from: increase in income; ongoing efficiencies; transformation of service delivery; managing demand

Process

11th February – Cabinet to agree final Priorities Plan, budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-29

24th February – Full Council to approve