

Localism Vision and Strategy Launch – Monday 25th January 2021

Questions from Attendees

Question	Asked by	Response
We discussed this at our last meeting and believe 7 principles at local level is good but it needs to be maintained at top level too. This needs to be addressed.	Karin Henderson Lostwithiel TC	The four principles in the strategy document are the overriding principles which are most the most easily identifiable. How anyone then breaks these down and promotes them is at the discretion of the Town Council or Parish.
Remove many planning decisions from the local community?	Anonymous	Parishes are and always will be statutory consultees.
Is this presenter speaking on behalf of the LGA or the Liberal Democrats ... only I am a little confused?	Cllr Ian Thomas	The LGA
Would you agree that what we really need is Devolution rather than Localism as Localism tends not to carry financial control and true local decision making? This is Westminster to Cornwall as well as Cornwall to TCs and Parishes.	Cllr Andrew Long - Callington TC	We see Localism as supporting the double devolution from Westminster, transferring powers from London to Cornwall and to local communities and residents.

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...and why are none of the "measurables" financial? Surely we must invest to make it happen and we should target local control of taxpayers' funds.	Anonymous	What matters most is localism's potential to strengthen communities and improve peoples' lives. Not simply through providing additional funds.
1st part - what budget or resources have been allocated to make Localism happen?	Anonymous	This strategy is a Cornwall wide strategy, adopted by all of our partners and sets out the principles to bring partners together to deliver the localism agenda.
How do small councils with small precepts and economically challenged population fund this? Precepts are small in these area for a good reason, how is all the extra work paid for? The parish clerks cannot be expected to take all of it on without some support.	Anonymous	It is not expected that all parishes find individual solutions to funding additional work. The point about localism is that we do this collectively, working with other parishes and partners.
All of the transitions have costs associated with them. For instance, the change to "carbon neutral" carries a very high potential cost. Surely a fundamental transition has to be of the economy so that Cornwall can afford to implement the transitions?	Anonymous	This is acknowledged in Gyllyn Warbarth: The Cornwall Plan, under the transition to create a "creative, carbon zero economy".
I note in 'Transition 3' that the aim is to end 'street homelessness'. The aim	Allister Young, Coastline	Hi Allister, thanks for this, I can reassure you that there is certainly no intention of diluting the boldest strategic intent

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<p>of Cornwall's homelessness strategy is bolder than that, being 'to end homelessness in Cornwall' ('homeless' being a much broader definition than 'street homeless'). Is there are reason for the different objective here?</p>		<p>and would be great to link in on the underpinning measures and trajectories.</p>
<p>I will now ask my question in one part! How is it possible to reconcile the localism agenda with the government's apparent determination to remove many planning decisions from the local community</p>	<p>Cllr David Guiterman</p>	<p>The Government's proposals for changing the planning system were set out in the Planning for the Future White Paper in August 2020. Cornwall Council made a response to the consultation strongly objecting to the proposals on the basis that they removed many elements of local control of development which exist in the current system. The Government have not yet responded to the consultation, nor has it published any further updates to its proposals. The White Paper does make the point that the Government expects the new system to include opportunities for greater involvement of local people in the plan making process, particularly in the early stages of plan making, and also that it expects innovations using PlanTech and increasingly effective use of online resources to also expand involvement in decision making. Cornwall Council will continue to monitor Government announcements and respond to consultations.</p>

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Thank you for this, A comment re: permission: our social entrepreneurs have never asked permission but with our support built strong enterprises supporting our local communities long before and during covid	Sally Heard - School for Social Entrepreneurs	Thank you for this comment. Localism is not about needing to give permission and the strategy outlines that Cornwall is already very good at getting on with things and is absolutely in support of this.
When will revenues gained locally from car parks be ringfenced and devolved back to those communities?	Ian	This is something that will be considered under a complete review of how local income is administered and shared.
I have looked at "Localism in Cornwall". It seems to ignore the Climate Emergency . Should it not at least incorporate and expand on the excellent CC's Transition aims and objectives presented earlier?	Adrian Bennett Bude CCT	Thank you for this question. The Localism Strategy forms part of the 2020 – 2050 Vision for Cornwall and should be read alongside this document. Localism and Cornwall's Climate Action Plan are intrinsically linked. See the presentation that is available on the website.
Thank you for this, A comment re: permission: our social entrepreneurs have never asked permission but with our support built strong enterprises supporting our local communities long before and during covid covering areas such as: Social & Financial Services, Health & Wellbeing, Creativity, Physical Activity,	Sally Heard - School for Social Entrepreneurs	Thank you for this comment. Localism is not about needing to give permission and the strategy outlines that Cornwall is already very good at getting on with things and is absolutely in support of this.

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<p>Education, Food & Drink, Environmental & open spaces and on...important we recognise what is already happening in our communities, maximise opportunities and build on this work bottom up / top down community development</p>		
<p>How much of a challenge to sustainability do you consider Cornwall's growing population to be with the loss of top grade agricultural land to development.?</p>	<p>John Bastin CC</p>	<p>The Cornwall Local Plan is based around the concept of sustainable development and contains a strategy which balances the need for development with the priority to conserve our sensitive environment and heritage and to locate development in our larger towns. Cornwall has a growing and changing population, as do all places across the country and we are also required by the Government to plan for housing growth. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires us to 'significantly boost the supply of housing'. The policies in the Local Plan allow us to balance this instruction to drive housing growth with our priority to preserve our greenfield land and direct new housing growth to locations within and on the edges of our towns and villages. It should be noted that paragraph 170 of the NPPF recognises the importance of the best and most versatile agricultural land, as does Policy 21 of the Cornwall Local Plan</p>

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		and therefore quality of agricultural land is a consideration that is taken into account in the decision making process.
Asset transfer seems to be blocked by the inability of Cornwall's legal department to work at an acceptable speed. Are steps being taken to clear the backlog and if so, how?	Lanner Parish Council	Yes, we have worked hard to ensure that devolution projects are able to be supported by our legal department and now have a process to ensure that fully worked up and agreed projects can be supported.
Will the capacity within the CC Localism Team be grown to support T/PCs engaging with devolution and community action?	Mark Williams Falmouth TC	<p>We have invested in strengthening the Community Link Officers offer, the only uplift in budget apart from adult services in the 2018 budget and we have a devolution pot to help facilitate devolution projects. But this strategy places the responsibility for delivering localism on the whole organisation across all of our services, not just the localism team.</p> <p>Engaging with Town and Parish Councils and all of our partners is a pillar of the Vision and Strategy. This will require all services to change the way they work with and engage with town and parish councils, which will increase the capacity of devolution and community action.</p>
Is it anticipated that having a well-developed and nationally respected localism agenda will result in more	Cllr David Guiterman	Yes, we aim to work with Westminster to develop further powers and funding.

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powers and funding being devolved from Westminster to Cornwall?		
If a CC asset is devolved, e.g. a greenspace, will the maintenance budget be devolved as well?	Trevor Toms	There are funds available for both large and small devolution green space projects. Once a project is identified please contact your Community Link Officer who will be able to work with you to explore what funding options may be available
What is, or can, the Localism Strategy do to ensure speeding issues in our village are addressed? One death or injury, due to speeding traffic is one too many.	D Rogers	The Localism Strategy in itself cannot deal with speeding issues but communities can find support for ideas on road safety at The Village Road Safety Group Home (villageroadsafety.co.uk)
Could we see a simple picture to illustrate the links between the 10 Key Areas of the Devolution Deal, the 6 Transitions of the Cornwall Plan and the 4 Principles of Localism? It is not clear how each of these initiatives fit into a cohesive approach.	Anonymous	Our Strategy and Engagement Team are currently developing a resource which will go live on the Cornwall Council website in the coming weeks. The link will be sent to all attendees
With the creation of an Integrated Health and Adult Social Care System also taking place how can health feature in this localism plan? Health isn't mentioned. We are happy to	Mario Dunn Healthwatch Cornwall	Thank you and this is feedback we have received. We are working with colleagues in Adult Social Care and health to ensure we can align. I would welcome a conversation to further explore this Mario (Cllr Edwina Hannaford).

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work with colleagues to bring in a health focus into this work		
Would there be any more money be made available to small parish councils with limited existing precepts?	Cllr Ian Stewart	There are funds available for both large and small devolution projects. Once a project is identified please contact your Community Link Officer who will be able to work with you to explore what options are available.
How do you reconcile the national housing targets with the need to retain agricultural land for local food production?	Katharine Heron	See answer to John Bastin CC above. Cornwall Council is required to meet the housing requirement which is set out in the Cornwall Local Plan. The Local Plan contains policies to balance this need against the need to protect land from development for a number of different reasons, including its value as agricultural land. The Local Plan therefore sets out an approach to meeting needs while minimising the amount of the best and most versatile agricultural land used to meet those needs.
Can you confirm that localism in Cornwall will see the Whole of Cornwall being equally respected when it comes to devolved service rather than what is happening now, which is an east West divide.	Launceston T. C	Please see this link which is continually updated to show where local devolution projects have been completed devolved-land-sites.pdf (cornwall.gov.uk)
Localism needs more active parish councillors of a younger age. Can CC help promote localism to schools,	Cllr Karen La Borde	Yes we are keen to explore this and are working with Together For Families to look at how we can support broader engagement with the young people of Cornwall and increase

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communities etc. so that parish councils can fill all their vacancies?		interest in local democracy, we would most welcome any views on how we think this could be enhanced.
To take the lead of Area Communities e.g. our area of North Cornwall, you can't expect the drivers to be voluntary. The lead has to be funded and then link in all the other local groups.	Paul Tilzey Chair of Bude Coastal Community Team	We will work with and look at all options for communities to best work together to fulfil the localism agenda.
"involving communities more in decisions that affect them by being far more participatory in our approach". I can quote one instance at least in Fowey of an overturning of FTC's objection to a development that will have a serious impact on overstretched amenities and roads.,	Anonymous	Clearly we cannot comment on individual decisions in these replies. All planning decisions are taken in an open and transparent manner, and involve extensive consultation with communities, individuals and other stakeholders. We are always looking for ways to improve our engagement techniques so that we can involve communities as much as possible in decisions whether they are to do with applications, strategic plans or other policy documents. Planning is always about balancing different views, but also has to be consistent with the policies and guidance in the Cornwall Local Plan and the NPPF, and also consistent with advice received from other professionals including transport and infrastructure providers. This means that in the balance, it is inevitable that some will find that their views are not carried through into a decision. This does not mean that their views have not been listened to, nor does it mean that

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		Cornwall Council is not committed to engaging with local communities and explaining and communicating the reasons for decisions that are made.
Is Localism in Cornwall supported by all Political groups on CC? Would the strategy continue with potential future change in administration?		The strategy and vision is an adopted policy position of the Council and should be referenced in all our work. Any new administration could of course change that position (Cllr Hannaford)
Whole-heartedly agree that the climate emergency is massively important. Do we know how many parish and town council have declared an emergency?	John Carley	36 Town & Parish Councils have declared a climate emergency.
Although implementing the climate emergency agenda is partly down to local communities, do you think there is a role for Cornwall-wide strategy to link renewable energy generation with its use in, for example liquid fuel production and generation and transmission of hydrogen fuel. Another example is the linking of Lithium extraction with locally-produced Lithium batteries?	Cllr David Guiterman	Absolutely! Here is the current climate change action plan which is being refreshed shortly which communities can get involved in. https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/40176082/climate-change-action-plan.pdf (Cllr Hannaford)

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Cornwall Council's attitude regarding Business Rates is that those rates raised in Cornwall should be retained in Cornwall. Given the "double devolution" ethos and aims for subsidiarity, surely this principle also applies to parking revenues raised in communities - they should be retained and spent on those communities?	Ian	All income raised through parking charges is spent on running the Council's parking operation and enforcement services, with any surplus used to ensure that the highway network in each of our Towns and City is maintained to a high standard. Highways related projects, such as those agreed by the Community Network Panels, also benefit from this highway related spend, which in turn supports the economic and environmental prosperity of our individual Towns and City.
When Govt. regs on Planning arrive, aren't planning officers already well-rehearsed in disregarding PCs case-argued positions?	Anonymous	In making planning decisions, planning officers take account of the views of everyone who comments on a planning application. These views must be balanced against each other and also weighed against the policy set out in the Cornwall Local Plan and other local development plan documents, national policy set out in the NPPF and ultimately statutory legislation and regulations. Sometimes this will mean that the position taken by a PC may not follow through into the decision ultimately taken by the planning authority. The reasons for the decision are set out in the planning officers report.
Talking of 'space for nature' (Cllr Hannaford) we have been trying for over a year to re-wild the old army	Councillor Norrington (Perranzabuloe)	We will ensure your Community Link officer makes contact to understand the barriers and your aims (Cllr Hannaford).

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<p>camp at Penhale which is in our parish. The alternative is a ghastly holiday home development of 132 houses being plonked on a precious natural asset where planning consent (which was opposed strongly by The National Trust, English Heritage, Cornwall Wildlife Trust etc etc and only granted by Sajid Javid as Sec. of State) is about to expire (in March) and we desperately need funding of up to 4 million in order to buy back and conserve the 40 acre site from the unscrupulous developers who just want to make a profit. This is an outstanding opportunity to uphold the principles of localism and to make our action on climate emergency (Perranzabuloe has declared a climate emergency) mean something in practical terms but, all representations to Cornwall Council (Julian German in particular) over the past three months have failed to elicit</p>		<p>Since the launch the local Community Link Officer has been in contact with the Parish Council and provided the required assistance.</p>

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any kind of response at all (promises but nothing solid) and it is now getting awfully close to being too late to rescue this precious coastal environment and conserve it for our children's future. I appreciate all the fine words and good intentions we have been hearing about this morning but what, if anything, can the CC Localism Team do to help us in The Penhale Conservation Group and our enthusiastic local community to save Penhale?		
Our personal experience of a financial offer under an LMP for clearing footpaths doesn't even come close to what it would actually cost	Cllr Ian Stewart	It is not expected that all parishes find individual solutions to funding footpath work. The point about localism is that we do this collectively, working with other parishes and partners.
With over 200 town and parish councils in Cornwall and many community groups, how many have participated in this launch?	Anonymous	50 parish councils participated in the launch with 116 delegates at the launch.

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<p>A question about best practice pointers ...</p> <p>Imagine a satellite view of Cornwall at night.</p> <p>There is a lit beacon at the capital. There are further beacons marking three innovation centres, three towns recently identified for £15m workspace centres, and at those places with case studies in the Localism Strategy.</p> <p>To lighten the darkness in north Cornwall, what needs to be done, by whom, and what support is available from CC?</p>	Anonymous	<p>Great question! We want to ensure that our strategic plans set out a vision and real agendas for positive change in all parts of Cornwall – including North Cornwall, and South East Cornwall. The Cornwall Local Plan sets out such a strategy and vision, but it is now 5 years old and will be due for a review towards the end of 2021. Additionally, we are looking to produce a long term spatial vision and strategy to guide the path that Cornwall takes over the next decades, and it would certainly be of value to ensure that all parts of Cornwall have a strong voice in both the production of this strategy and any updates to the Local Plan – as these will guide where change takes place and where future funding streams can be directed. It will therefore be helpful for local communities and other groups to respond to consultations and engage with these processes.</p>
<p>Can the Cornwall Voluntary Forum help voluntary safety groups relating to speeding traffic through villages? such as the Village Road Safety Group in South Petherwin . Thank you</p>	Cllr D Rogers	<p>The Village Road Safety Group is a voluntary organisation set up by residents to campaign for safety improvements and Cornwall Council are working with them to identify solutions. Please use this link to their website.</p> <p>Home (villageroadsafety.co.uk)</p>