



Cornwall Association of Local Councils

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NEWS ITEM

Marking the Moment: Sarah Mason's farewell and what's next for CALC

Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) is preparing to say goodbye to a familiar and much-respected face. Sarah Mason, who has been at the heart of the organisation for over 25 years, will be stepping down at the end of August 2025.

Sarah's time with CALC has been nothing short of transformative. As County Executive Officer for much of her tenure, she helped shape CALC into the trusted support body it is today for town and parish councils across Cornwall. Her knowledge, leadership, and personal approach have earned her the respect of colleagues not just in Cornwall, but across the country. Nationally, she's been a key voice on employment issues, bullying in the workplace, and civility and respect—while locally, she's been a dependable source of support for councils large and small.

Sarah commented "I look back on my time with the Association with tremendous pride. Having supported local councils through the challenges of local government review, Covid and legislative change, I have made many life long friends and been welcomed into the work of so many. But the time is now right to step back and I am delighted that Lee has been appointed as my successor to lead the Association in the future."

Sarah's decision to retire has prompted a wider look at CALC's staffing structure to ensure the organisation is ready for the future. As part of this, CALC has appointed Lee Dunkley as the new County Executive Officer. Lee stepped into the role in April 2025 and brings with him 18 years of experience in local government. He's already been busy meeting councils, building relationships, and tackling the work ahead.

Chair of the Board of CALC, Bob Drew, added "Sarah has worked tirelessly as our County Executive Officer bringing a unique style to her exceptional capacity to provide first-class professional advice and outstanding critical training for our member councils. The depth and breadth of her encyclopaedic knowledge and experience of local authority matters left everyone in awe of her. With great reluctance we accept her decision to step down, grateful for all she has achieved for the Cornwall Association, within the County, regionally, and particularly at National level. We wish her every joy in a well-earned retirement."

To support this transition and help meet growing demand from member councils, CALC is now recruiting for a Deputy County Executive Officer. This new role will be central to delivering advice and guidance, supporting training and communications, and helping shape CALC's future work. It's a flexible, largely remote position—ideal for someone with hands-on experience in local council operations and a passion for helping communities thrive.

For full details please visit www.cornwallalc.org.uk/job-vacancies. Applications close on **Monday 14th July 2025**.

As Sarah prepares to step back, CALC extends its heartfelt thanks for everything she has done for the Association and for local government in Cornwall. Her legacy will be felt for years to come. We hope you'll join us in celebrating her achievements, welcoming Lee to his new role, and helping spread the word about this exciting opportunity to join the CALC team.