



**Your ref:**

**My ref:** ELMP 2025 -2026

**Date:** August 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

### **Enhanced LMP Grant for 2025 – 2026**

As some of you may be aware, we have previously trialled providing grants to Town and Parish Councils (T&PCs) to allow them to undertake small scale physical projects on their local Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. This is referred to as the Enhanced Local Maintenance Partnership.

Fortunately, we are now in a position to further build upon the prior successes of this programme, and will be offering the grant to a greater number of town and parish councils for the remainder of this financial year.

This funding is separate to the annual cutting undertaken as part of the Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP), but will be offered to those T&PCs signed up to the annual cutting in the first instance.

Cornwall Council acknowledges that the main focus of our capital and revenue programmes is on resolving safety issues on the network, and appreciate that more is required to improve ease of use and their enjoyment.

It is hoped that this will assist in redressing this balance, by allowing T&PCs to undertake works that they feel will improve the user experience, or resolve issues that are not addressed via the other budgets.

#### The Grant

This scheme makes grants of up to £15,000 available to T&PCs to improve the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network within their boundary.

**Cornwall Council | Konsel Kernow**

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The scheme will run for the remainder 2025 – 2026 financial year, with claims needing to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and will operate on a first come, first served basis.

It is anticipated that approximately 20 T&PCs can be supported to the full amount, or more if smaller grants are applied for.

#### Application Process

T&PCs will be required to provide a list of works that they wish to undertake and at least one quote from a suitable contractor.

#### Eligible Works

Surfacing & drainage, access furniture, vegetation / scrub clearance & signage

More information on what is eligible and how to apply, can be found in the ***Enhanced LMP – new project outline. 2025 – 2026*** document that is included within the attached zip folder.

We hope that you will be able to take advantage in this initiative, which will allow easier access to nature, which is proven to increase wellbeing and extend life.

In the meantime, if you require any further information, or wish to discuss anything, then please contact me via the LMP email address [only](mailto:imp@cornwall.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Wood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Wood  
Countryside Officer  
**Environment & Connectivity Service**

[imp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:imp@cornwall.gov.uk)



## **Enhanced LMP 2025 – 2026**

### **Grant Available**

Grants are available to fund works to a maximum of £15,000 per Town or Parish Council (T&PC). Grants will be to the value of the agreed works & quotes provided not automatically to £15,000.

We anticipate that we will be able to support 20no T&PCs if all apply for the maximum grant, whilst smaller grants will result in more availability.

### **Grant Conditions**

The grant is available to all Town & Parish Councils in Cornwall.

Only 1no application can be made by a T&PC over the course of the financial year 2025 -2026.

Those signed up to LMP will take precedence to those not in the scheme, on the understanding that the paths will be cut and the works undertaken therefore remain accessible.

**The grant is specifically for works on or to Public Rights of Way.** This includes Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open To All Traffic. It does not include private, permissive or currently unrecorded paths.

Works should provide benefit to the users of the public Rights of Way network.

Parts of the ordinary roads network and Highways maintained footways / Highways maintained RoW will also not be eligible. A list of fundable works is provided on the following pages.

This is a Prior approval scheme. The applicant must not start work, commit to buying, ordering, or making a deposit on any items related to the grant application until a formal offer has been issued. Previously completed works cannot be claimed for.

Cornwall Council reserve the right to not fund works, or parts of works that we do not feel are suitable.

Parish / Town Council to act as the client to the selected contractor.

Contractor to be responsible for the health & Safety of themselves and public, have suitable competencies, experience and Public Liability insurance to £5m.

Parish / Town Council to be responsible for any agreements, consents or permits required – e.g. landowner, SSSI and Environment Agency. The grant agreement alone does not operate as any type of authorisation or consent to carry out an activity.

**All works should be completed and claimed before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.** It cannot be rolled over to a new financial year.

All communication and representations regarding the funding must be via [lmf@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:lmf@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Grant Process

There are three stages to the process, which are set out below. They are also shown in a flowchart at the end of the document.

### 1) Application

Complete all of the fields in columns C to i on Tab A) *LMP Enhanced Proposed Works on **the Enhanced LMP – Parish Projects Proposal & Claim Form***.

Use 1no row for each path – works to multiple paths can be submitted on one form.

**Gain & supply a written contractor quote** - must detail works and costing, e.g. pdf, word document or original email.

Send both to [imp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:imp@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Applications without a completed Form & Quote will not be valid or considered.**

(Taking photos of the current condition of surface or structures may be useful but are not required).

### 2) Offer

The application will be assessed and further information sought if necessary. A Countryside Officer may be in touch to discuss any specifics if assistance is requested.

Alternatively, if the application is successful, then you will be contacted and a PO raised.

### 3) Claim

Complete columns C to J on tab B) of the **Enhanced LMP – Parish Projects Proposal & Claim Form**

Email to [imp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:imp@cornwall.gov.uk) - Remembering to include:

**A Completed invoice to Cornwall Council** (including the PO reference) – template included.

**A Copy of the invoice from the Contractor** to the T&PC / invoice for materials from supplier.

**Digital Photos of the works undertaken** – these must be referenced or have a suitable file name (e.g. \*\*\*\*\* Parish Council - Footpath 6 surfacing location A)

All claims should be made as soon after the works are completed as possible.

Claims must be before the end of March 2026. Any claims after this date may not be honoured.

## Eligible items : Suitable Works to include, but not limited to:

### Surfacing & Drainage

Drains, Culverts, boardwalks, surfacing\* (creation, maintenance or repair)

### Access Furniture

New gates, improvement to, repair or replacement of existing gates, stiles & steps

### Access Management

Vegetation / Scrub Clearance, mechanical brushcutting or by using hand tools. Both surface, upgrowth and side growth such as hedges and low tree branches (up to 150mm diameter). Heights vary according to path type. Not to subsidise cutting on the LMP Schedule.

### Signage

New sign posts and waymarks, or replacement of rotten / damaged.

OR Materials only : If the T&PC has, or is using volunteers to deliver the works, then materials can be purchased to the value of the grant.

## Considerations

New gates / stiles: if nothing is present on ground, you will need to check with CC what structure is suitable / recorded for this location. It will also need to be authorised by CC & landowner to be informed of future maintenance liability.

Replacement of structures / or part of, with a predicted lifespan of less than 1 year – OK

Upgrading the existing structure to the least restrictive option where negotiated & agreed with landowner and appropriate – e.g. timber stile to gate - OK

Replacement / installation of short sections of boardwalk – to CC design – OK

Maintenance of existing, or the installation of drainage and small scale surfacing, preferably on non urban paths. We have standard designs for new culverts, drainage & surfacing available.

\*Surface improvements to sections of path – for example importation and laying of MOT 803 / 804. We would not fund the laying of new bitmac or other sealed surfaces.

Replacement or installation of new waymarking and signposting. The path must be fully open and available before they are signed. Therefore, they are always the last piece of infrastructure to be installed.

Vegetation clearance on the line of the path (both side – hedges etc and upgrowth including heavy scrub). – OK. The later must be undertaken outside of bird nesting season.

**Breaking ground and working beside a driven highway is not without risk, please see the Health & Safety section for requirements & advice.**

## Additional Information

Structures : Suitable specifications and drawings provided. – oak to be used unless otherwise specified, e.g. soft wood pedestrian and bridle gates, but on oak posts. These are all based on the current designs and requirements within BS5709:2018

Replacement & new structures need to be standardised across the network.

Please refer to the drawings for materials required and their measurements and specifications.

There is no specification for stone stiles, as they vary from area to area. This grant will only fund repair / rebuilding in the same local style and as close to original as possible.

Stiles; either stone or wood, cannot be installed where they are not currently or historically found. They are too restrictive and therefore cannot now be authorised. Location and legality will need to be checked with CC / Cormac in advance.

Waymarking : must be the correct coloured roundel arrow – see specs.

## Materials & Possible Suppliers\*

**Wood:** Most, such as steps, decking rails & gate posts will need to be ordered from suppliers, as they are not standard items. Our materials are supplied by Bradfords & Bonds. 90% of our designs require oak unless stated.

### **Signage:**

Standard Waymark posts in oak can be collected from Comac – as can arrow roundels

Signposts – Oak- Cormac can provide all materials required for sign posts, (post / plastic plate / bolts)

**Gate Fittings:** Griggs, Centrewire, SJ Andrews & Macsalvors (please see gate specifications as they vary for location and user)

**Metal Step Pins:** These can be purchased from MGC in Wadebridge or Devoran Metals

**Graded Road Planings:** Can be organised through Cormac

**Surfacing Materials:** MOT 803 and 804 are readily available in dumpy bags from builders merchants, or larger volumes from local quarries. Clean stone, such as MOT 505 and 6" to 9" (150 x 228mm) for drainage can also be ordered. Quarry waste and pea or ornamental gravel are not suitable for Public Rights of Way surfaces.

\*Many other suitable local and national suppliers are available, these are given as examples of where we source materials used on the Public Rights of Way network.

## Exceptions and Considerations

Works must be agreed with the landowner before being undertaken

All necessary permits must be in place before the works can start on site

No scrub clearance during the nesting season (Beginning of March to end of August)

No bridges to be constructed (they require a design approval process)

No works to paths or sections of paths requiring diversion orders or definitive map review

No works where there are large scale or complicated obstruction(s) of the path requiring legal notice

Not to address issues on current cul-de-sac or bronze paths, with little benefit to the public.

Exception being where path is shown as bronze, but clearly links to neighbouring parish.

No works to currently unrecorded sections or permissive paths can be funded. This includes where a DMMO application has been submitted but has not been added to the definitive map.

Any items of work which are not agreed or do not meet these criteria cannot be paid for.

## Health & Safety

In addition to £5m Public Liability Insurance and competencies, the T&PC should ensure that the contractor complies with all of the applicable legislation, including the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

Breaking ground: We would recommend that service plans (often referred to as NRSWA) are gained, especially when services are expected. A safe method of digging should always be employed.

Roadside Working: We would not recommend any works adjacent to any of the major roads. When working on, or close to the driven highway, contractors should have the appropriate training, traffic management, operations, visibility and safety. This is often referred to as Chapter 8, or chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

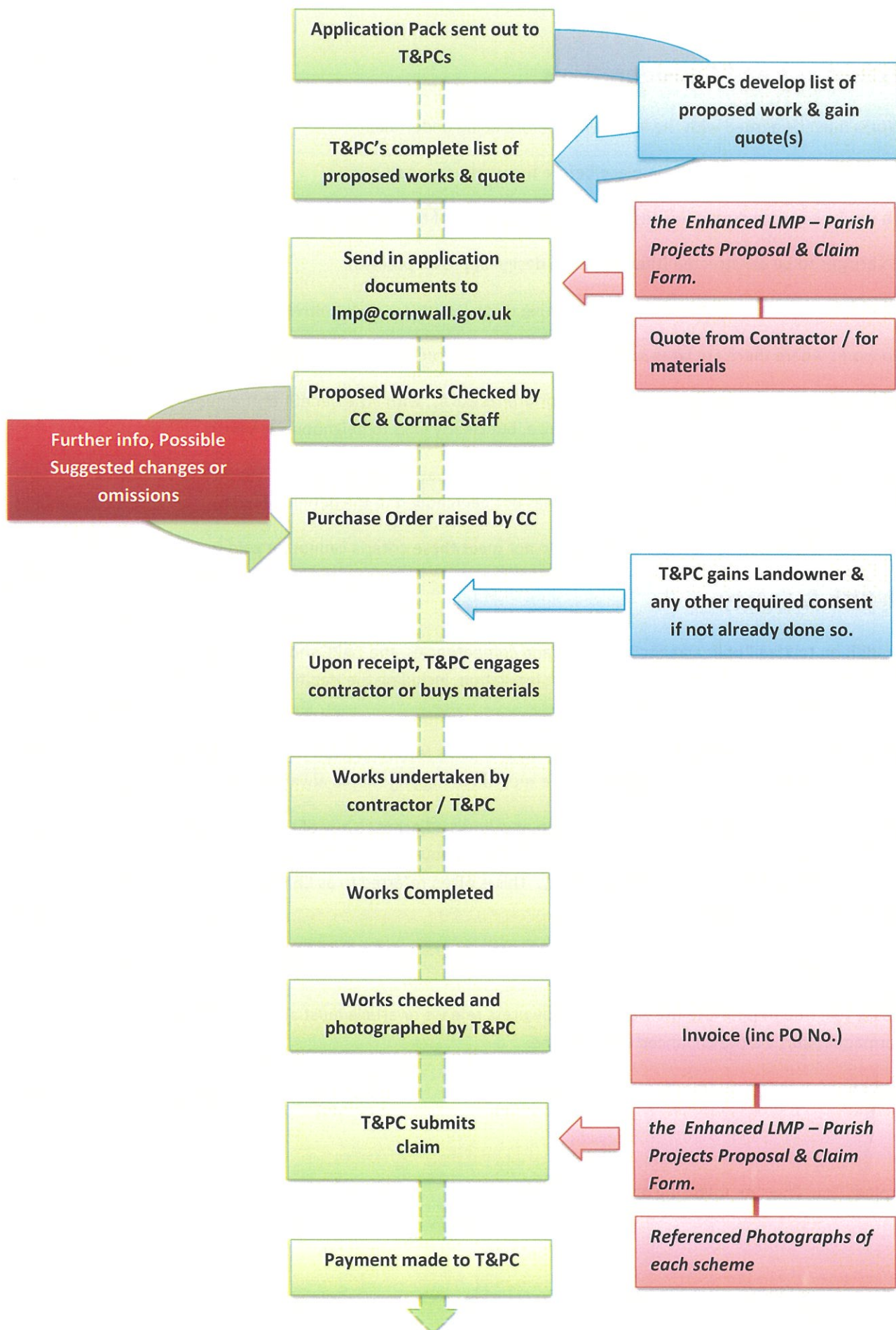
## Publicity

Please feel free to publicise the works, but any press release or article must acknowledge the CC and Cormac support via the Enhanced LMP scheme.

## Further Information

Email: [imp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:imp@cornwall.gov.uk)

Project Flow Chart on following page.



Name
Position
Parish or Town Council
Email Address

Date	
Chosen Contractor	

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\* This can be cut and paste from the Cornwall Council Interactive Map - <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a3074c311084a3ada55e216660bc0d3cd>

