

Milly Southworth

COWCIL 20/11/25

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Sent: 14 November 2025 14:16
To: CornwallALC Enquiries

Cc: Lee Dunkley; Mary Gosling; Training Cornwall ALC

Subject: NEWS BULLETIN 14/11/2025

Attachments: Local Council Finance Briefing November 2025.pptx; Skills and Career Fair (1).png;

CCF Vital Signs Report 2025.pdf; CCF Vital Issues Report 2025 - Print.pdf

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

To All Members -

We would like to draw your attention to a number of <u>news items</u> that may be of interest for members and some important dates for your diaries:

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 18 November - FREE Briefing for clerks on Assertion 10 at 11am

Monday 17 November - Chairing Skills training, in-person at Blackwater Passmore Edwards Institute & Village Hall at 10am

Monday 17 November - Code of Conduct training, online at 6.30pm

Wednesday 19 November - Martyn's Law webinar - 12pm

Tuesday 25 November - Enforcement & Appeals, presented by Andrew Towlerton, online at 6.30pm

Thursday 4 December - Martyn's Law Webinar - 12pm

News Items

1. <u>CALC AGM</u> – Many thanks to delegates and officers from across Cornwall that attended the CALC AGM on 11th November. Engagement with the CALC board elections was unprecedented this year, with 13 candidates looking to fill 10 vacancies. After a hotly contested ballot I am pleased to welcome our directors for the next 12 months listed below. Many thanks to all 13 candidates for your keen interest. The AGM gave a heartfelt thanks and farewell to Sarah Mason, who has after 25 years of service now left the organisation to enjoy retirement; and also bid its gratitude to Stuart Roden who has served as a director and previous chair to CALC for many years.

Following the AGM Cllr Sarah Preece, portfolio holder for Tourism, Localism and Planning and Cornwall Council was joined by senior planning colleagues and gave an informative and well-received presentation on the development of the Local Plan and the ability for local councils to engage in this. A lengthy Q&A followed on both planning and tourism matters.

Next year we hope to hold a full day conference alongside the AGM - so please watch this space.

Directors for 2025/26: Bob Drew (Chair), Rob Rotchell (Vice Chair), Richard Davies, Graham Ford, Carl Hearn, Paul O'Brien, Deborah Reeve, Peter Tisdale, Paul Andrew, Malcolm Brown, Rod Pascoe, Richard Stokoe.

2. <u>2025/26 Budget Update</u> - CALC hosted a Teams meeting for clerks and members of local councils. We would like to extend our thanks to the team of Cornwall Council officers who presented the update on Cornwall Council's 2025/26 Budget position and planning for the 2026/27 Budget, along with an update on the latest information relating to the Second Homes Council Tax Premium and Precept setting.

The meeting was well attended and we have attached the presentation slides for your information and a recording of the briefing here: Recap: CC Finance Briefing for Local Councils 13 November | Meeting | Microsoft Teams

3. Assertion 10: Digital and Data Compliance - Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 11am

Reminder: on 18th November we will be holding a short, sharp online briefing designed for clerks - particularly for small and medium councils, although it is not exclusive. This is not a comprehensive deep dive—it's a practical and pragmatic walkthrough of the real-world steps you need to consider taking to comply with the new Assertion 10 requirements in the 2025/26 AGAR. The

briefing is FREE to member councils (£35 for non-members). If you wish to join, please use the link below (there is no need to book).

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 376 590 985 184

Passcode: XW268ky6

- 4. <u>Assertion 10 NALC</u> are also holding a free detailed Assertion 10 briefing on **2nd December** <u>Assertion 10 Made Simple:</u> <u>Strengthening governance and compliance</u>
- 5. <u>Template IT Policy</u> NALC have now published a draft comprehensive IT Policy that councils may wish to make use of, particularly with regard to compliance with the new AGAR assertion 10: <u>IT Policy</u>
- 6. <u>Martyn's law virtual webinars</u> are open to all interested parties and are available on the following dates at 12pm. The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly referred to as Martyn's Law, requires that those responsible for certain premises and events consider how they would respond in order to be better prepared and protected. The Department for Education and the Home Office are delivering a series of virtual webinars for schools to learn about Martyn's Law at 12:00pm on the following dates:

19 November

4 December

The Home Office has also published a list of common queries and the answers which many will find helpful:

Q1. What is the scope (criteria) for qualifying premises

Premises that satisfy the following four criteria fall within scope of the Act, in accordance with section 2:

- 1. There is at least one building on the premises. The premises must consist of a building (including part of a building) or a building and other land;
- 2. The premises are wholly or mainly used for one or more of the uses specified at Schedule 1 to the Act, e.g. a restaurant or a shop;
- 3. It is reasonable to expect that at least 200 individuals (including staff) may be present at the same time at least occasionally, in connection with one or more uses specified in Schedule 1; and
- 4. The premises are not excluded under Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

Q2. What are the exclusions under Schedule 2 to the Act

Schedule 2 to the Act details excluded premises and events, including certain transport premises, and those premises occupied by Parliament, the devolved legislatures, and devolved administrations. These premises are excluded as there are already comparable security provisions to the Act in place, either required through other legislation (for example applying to the excluded transport premises), or achieved through other means. Schedule 2 also excludes some open-access premises which might otherwise be captured within scope, e.g. parks. gardens, and other open-air premises used for recreation or leisure, where there are no measures in place to restrict access. This was considered a necessary exclusion, given that the Act primarily applies to premises and events where there is control of access.

Q3. How could Local Authority buildings fall within scope of the Act

One of the four criteria for qualifying premises is that the premises are wholly or mainly used for one or more uses specified within Schedule 1 to the Act. Schedule 1 (para 17) includes premises for the provision by a public authority of facilities or services to visiting members of the public. A public authority is detailed as being a person exercising functions of a public nature, for example a Local Authority. There are also other Schedule 1 uses relating to entertainment and leisure activities, libraries, museums and galleries, halls and other venues for hire for activities, and visitor attractions. Where premises meet this and the other qualifying premises criteria, they will be considered as qualifying premises which must meet the Act's requirements.

The Act does not apply to the Crown. Premises which would otherwise be in scope which are operated by crown servants are not subject to the Act and its requirements. The provisions do have effect at premises which are operated by a third party (non-crown servants) on Crown land e.g. a retail premises on The Crown Estate.

The Home Office is undertaking a New Burdens Assessment and considering the findings of this and any cost implications for public authorities.

Please note that the responses below do not constitute legal advice. It remains the responsibility of each local authority to seek its own legal advice on the application of the Act's provisions to their building or premises.

7. Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for councils in England: government response

On 11 November, MHCLG has published the government's response to the consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.

The reforms outlined in the government response aim to create a clearer, fairer and more consistent system for upholding standards in local government, strengthening accountability, transparency and public trust. This forms part of the government's wider commitment to greater devolution and a stronger local democracy.

Press release:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tough-new-powers-to-clean-up-local-politics

8. <u>National Heritage Memorial Fund announced</u> – On the 9 November, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced £2 million in government funding for the National Heritage Memorial Fund, to support the repair and conservation of local war memorials in the United Kingdom.

The funding will build on The National Heritage Memorial Fund's ongoing work to preserve and protect UK's heritage and enable more communities to access support for maintaining their local war memorials most in need.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund exists to form a UK-wide memorial in honour of those who have given their lives to the country. Working with the War Memorials Trust, Historic England and other partners, the funding will support communities across the UK to protect and repair their local war memorials through grants, expert advice and guidance, ensuring these historic memories can continue to serve as places for remembrance and education.

Press release:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-to-protect-war-memorials-across-the-country-for-future-generations

9. <u>Skills and Career Fair</u> – this may be of interest to members who would like to promote the council as places for young people to enter employment and training – see attached flyer.

Job Adverts - for further information please click here

- 10. Director of Operations Newquay Town Council Closing Date Monday 10 November at midday
- 11. Director of Resources/Deputy Chief Executive Newquay Town Council Closing Date Monday 17 November at midday
- 12. Library & Visitor Information Deputy Manager Newquay Town Council Closing Date Monday 17 November
- 13. Committee Clerk Newquay Town Council Newquay Town Council Closing Date Monday 17 November
- 14. Deputy Finance Manager Newquay Town Council Newquay Town Council Closing Date Monday 17 November
- 15. Assistant Parish Clerk Illogan Parish Council Closing Date Tuesday 18 November
- 16. **Locum Parish Clerk/Proper Officer/Responsible Financial Officer** Probus Parish Council Closing Date by Thursday 20 November
- 17. Locum Finance Officer St Agnes Parish Council Immediate Start to allow for handover with outgoing post holder

Should you have any questions in relation to any item within this Bulletin, please get in touch by email at enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk

Kind regards,

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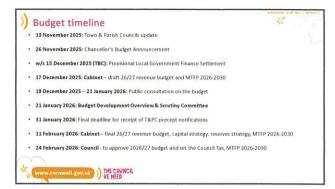




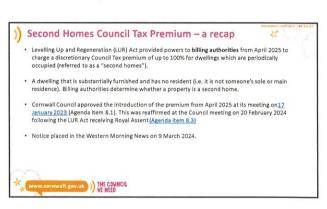




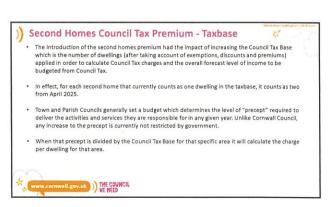














THE COUNCIL





