

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2025



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Cornwall Council

December continued with the Council looking at the budget for the 2026-2027 financial year. I attended the cabinet meeting in the middle of the month where the cabinet member for housing introduced his plan for housing across Cornwall. You will remember that I brought forward a motion at the last full council which asked for money to be moved from the Council's reserve funds to the HRA (Housing Revenue Account) to try and speed up the amount of time that Cornwall Housing properties are left empty. There is a wider issue of disrepair of Cornwall Housing properties as well that needs to be rectified and needs investment to bring tenants homes up to a decent standard. Before the cabinet meeting, I meet with the portfolio holder and the seconder to the motion, and some of the supporters, where Cllr LaBroy (cabinet member) shared with us that he had been looking at the situation and was going to request in the region of £24m over the next 5 years to try and get on top of this problem once and for all. I am really pleased that our cross party motion got the conversation started here and I hope that this extra money, if approved as part of the wider budget in February, is wisely used and helps resolve these longstanding issues.

As the Chair of the Together for Families scrutiny committee, I have been invited to attend the Corporate Parenting Board at Cornwall Council. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, to keep children in care and leaving care safe and to be the best parent it can be in the same way that a good parent would act for their own child. It was interesting to see what happens on the board and the way decisions are made.

During December I also attended my first SACRE meeting, SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education and it is responsible for advising the local authority on religious education and collective worship. The committee has only 4 councillors, and the other members are made up of teaching unions, faith groups and humanists.

Tamar Crossings

December brought the news that the Tamar crossings Joint Committee voted on and agreed to the monthly admin cost of the tags increasing from 80p per month to £2, an increase of 150%. This, understandably, has caused a huge amount of concern to residents that have to use the ferry to get to work, to hospital appointments, education and visiting family. I totally understand that the bridge and ferry need to keep afloat financially, but I am concerned that the cost of this

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Continued:

is being borne by local users. I want to see cheaper tolls for local people, not local people taking the brunt of rises that are done in a way that does not require scrutiny or public consultation. Since this was announced, there has been somewhat of a backlash against it and the joint committee chairs have put forward a, extraordinary meeting in January where they will look again at this decision. Something that I find deeply concerning, however, is that committee members are saying that they were not completely aware that they were voting for this. This meeting, like all their meetings, will be open to the public, and members of the public have the right to submit questions to the committee. Questions have to be submitted five days before the meeting and through this link <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/submit-a-question-to-a-meeting/>

South West Water

Over the Christmas break there seemed to be a huge number of water leaks across the division that SWW had to get emergency road closures in place. This has meant a huge disruption to bus services and access. I completely understand that things happen, pipes suddenly burst and so on, but my frustration is when leaks have been reported time and again for months and nothing has been done and then we get an emergency road closure. I am following up on this with SWW and asking them how they are managing their priorities when leaks are reported.

Cornwall Priorities

The Liberal Democrat and Independent coalition administration at Cornwall Council have finally shared their plan of priorities for Cornwall for the next 4 years. A priorities plan usually last for that administration and the first year of the new council. You can find out more and share your thoughts - either as individuals or as Parishes by going to by the 18 January 2026. I would encourage you to let Cornwall Council know what you think by completing the survey on <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/priorities> or, alternatively, by emailing the team at haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk.

Happy New Year

Finally, wishing you all a very happy, healthy and good 2026!