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To All Members –

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

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 28 January 2026 – NALC *Mastering asset management: Navigating new responsibilities*

Monday 2 February 2026 at 1pm – Assertion 10 online training – more information to follow

Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 6.30pm – Code of Conduct online training – more information to follow

Wednesday 11 February 2026 – [NALC Beyond the Precept: Funding solutions for smaller parish and town councils](#)

News Items

1. Please see the invitation below sent on behalf of Cllr Leigh Frost, Leader of Cornwall Council and Cllr Adam Paynter, Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council.

Dear Leadership Board and Executive Group colleagues

Following the elections in May, our new political administration set out our priorities to deliver real change on the issues that matter most to residents and communities across Cornwall.

The Council Priorities Plan 2026-2030 is the next important step on that journey as it outlines what the Council will focus on in the years ahead to achieve those priorities.

The plan also sets out the Financial Principles to guide how Cornwall Council will deliver the priorities while remaining financially sustainable and resilient. This is important, because the financial context for Cornwall Council and other local authorities remains challenging. More people need our services and at the same time the costs of delivering those services continue to rise.

To maintain a balanced budget, we will need to make further savings and review how services are provided. On the plus side, the Government is planning to give more certainty to councils about revenue funding for future years, meaning we can plan better for the years ahead.

The Council Priorities Plan 2026-2030 will be our Business Plan, guiding how the Council will deliver improved outcomes for residents. It will underpin the comprehensive review of our spending and the resulting budget proposals and Medium-Term Financial Plans.

Consultation

We know that achieving our priorities depends on us all working together across the public, private and voluntary sector. This is why your feedback about the draft Council Priorities Plan and the draft Budget proposals is important to us.

We are consulting in two parts.

- The consultation on the draft Council Priorities Plan is already underway and runs until 18 January 2026. I would encourage you to let us know what you think by completing the survey on [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) or, alternatively, by emailing us at haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk
- Once Cabinet have discussed the draft budget on 17 December 2025, we will start a further short consultation on the draft budget proposals. **This will run until 21 January 2026 and details will be available on [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) from 19 December onwards.**

Please help us to promote these consultations by circulating this email to your wider networks and communities.

- [Promotional posters](#) for the Council Priorities Plan consultation are available (to print yourself - or contact us for copies). We can also provide paper versions of the survey, including in Easy Read format (email us at haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk or call 0300 123 1118)

Stakeholder consultation event

We would like to be able to discuss the Council Priorities and budget proposals with you. I hope you are able to join us at an online event for our businesses, public sector and voluntary sector partners and stakeholders on:

Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 6.30pm to 8pm

If you would like to attend this event, please let us know by emailing haveyoursay@cornwall.gov.uk by 6pm on Monday 5 January. We will then send you a link and joining instructions for the event.

Best wishes,

Cllr Leigh Frost - Leader of Cornwall Council

Cllr Adam Paynter - Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council

2. NALC and the British Toilets Association (BTA) have launched a [national survey](#) for parish and town councils to provide views and updates on public conveniences they currently manage or are likely to manage in future, to coincide with World Toilet Day 2025.

They would like to get a snapshot on general trends on public conveniences (financial/operational/asset and liability transfer) currently managed by parish and town councils, and, separately, likely to be transferred to parish and town councils as a consequence of local government re-organisation – in the context of there being no single database where this data currently resides.

Please use the following survey link [here](#) (one response each per council, please) by **latest 23:45 on 14 January 2026** (the survey will take around 5 minutes to complete).

3. The NALC Smaller Councils Committee – have asked for the following information and links from the Charities Commission to be circulated as this may be of interest for some members.

- [Local authorities \(or councils\) as trustees of charities](#)
- [Local authorities \(or councils\) as trustees of charities – a guide for councillors](#)
- [Selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of charity land in England and Wales](#)
- [Recreation ground charities: guidance for trustees](#)
- [Decision-making for charity trustees](#)
- [Trustees trading and tax: how charities may lawfully trade](#)
- [Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties](#)
- [Village halls: answers to some common questions](#)

4. Assertion 10 Made Simple: Strengthening governance and compliance – this information has previously been circulated and acts as a reminder.

Following the NALC event held on Tuesday 2 December, we have pleasure in circulating the post-event information for **Assertion 10 Made Simple**, for your appraisal and use.

You will need to have an account and login with NALC to access this information.

Thank you for attending our online event, Assertion 10 Made Simple: Strengthening governance and compliance, on 02 December 2025. We hope the event was valuable and gave you insights you can put to use right away.

Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GABnK6zg1qOsCy6SDlXp3hfGEPvW3O4H7mskeZ3pMtfC-OG4qHmWaLjpysoQqKTjH_y8gI9eMW2hagl0t?startTime=1764676617000

Passcode: P78^G?0G

Chat:

The sessions chat will be listed on the right-hand side of your screen once you access the events recording.

Speaker presentations:

[Assertion 10 launch event slides](#)

FAQs:

[Assertion 10 FAQs](#)

Useful links:

- [Assertion 10 Hub](#)
- [Data Protection Roadmap](#)
- [IT Policy](#)
- [The Good Councillor's Guide to Website Accessibility launches in January 2026](#)

- NALC Advisory services
- Proper Practices Consultation (Closes 02 January at 5pm)

5. Cornwall Council has been invited by the Department for Transport to take part in a national pilot, offering a rural perspective on how bus networks are delivered.

With new legislation set to give local authorities greater control over bus services, Cornwall Council wants to hear views from town and parish councils on the current bus network and what's important to people in your area:

- What works?
- What could be improved?
- What would make buses a better choice for your community?

Your thoughts will help with Cornwall Council's contribution to the national pilot.

Complete the survey on Let's Talk Cornwall.

The deadline for responses is Sunday 18 January 2026.

6. There's still time to share your views in the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) consultation on the proper practices that guide how smaller authorities are governed and manage their finances. The proposals aim to strengthen clarity, transparency and usability across financial reporting and governance requirements. SAPPP is particularly interested in hearing views on how accounts are presented and internal auditor competency. The consultation closes on 2 January 2026.

7. Stop Loan Sharks is running a new campaign across West Cornwall from January to March 2026.

The campaign is to encourage any borrowers in the area to come forward and to speak to them for guidance about the loan shark or to ask for help and support in dealing with their debt.

We have been asked to circulate this information so that the message is shared as far and as wide as possible; The campaign will include the following.

- Daily radio adverts on Coast FM between 18:00 & 22:00
- A social media campaign across all of our platforms
- A broadcast interview with our national LIAISE manager, Cath Wohlers
- Use of the attached posters,

Where possible, print off and display the poster in any prominent place used by your service users and please like and share our StopLoanSharks social media posts on as many of your platforms as possible.

8. The South-West Cyber Resilience Centre (SWCRC) would like us to circulate the following information:

A free early Christmas present for you that could quite literally save your business or organisation

This message is for any business, charity, public authority, or organisation in the South-West, large or small. If your team uses IT, has an email address, operates a website, or benefits from a social media presence, then please read on.

If you are not involved in any such organisation, then please feel free to share this message with any appropriate contacts that you may have.

The gift:

As we approach the festive season, we know everyone is busy wrapping up the year. However, UK policing has a "gift" for your organisation that is free, takes minutes to open, and offers peace of mind well into the New Year. Introducing: **The South-West Cyber Resilience Centre (SWCRC)**. Whether you run a shop, a café, a hotel, or an Airbnb. Maybe you are a sole trader, a charitable trust, a not-for-profit organisation, or a PLC. The **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre** is here to help you with your organisational cyber security.

Most of us know the basics:

- **Passwords:** Make sure they aren't easy to guess. Use 3 random words or 12+ characters
- **2SV:** Turn on Two-Step Verification (2SV) also known as Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) wherever you can

- **Updates:** Keep your IT systems and software updated
- **Legacy Tech:** Don't run operating systems that are no longer supported
- **Backups:** Regularly back up your important information

Most importantly, make sure your colleagues know what to look out for. A pause and a discussion with teammates before clicking a link or downloading a file, can quite literally save your IT network — and maybe even your organisation.

A free helping hand

However, after the basics, when you delve a little deeper, cyber security can feel complicated, expensive, and unmanageable. If you wish to continually improve your cyber resilience, it can be hard figuring out your next steps. Professional cyber security support can be costly and for many SME's, sole traders, local charities, and public authorities, obtaining such specialist assistance can often be well beyond their financial means. This is where the **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre** can help. The **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre** is one of nine regional cyber resilience centres in England and Wales, supported by the National Cyber Resilience Centre Group Limited, a collaboration between policing, academia, and the private sector. Funding for Cyber Resilience Centres is provided by the Police and the Home Office. This means that virtually everything on offer to you is **free** and unbiased. It can provide your team with specific **free** cyber security support, tailored to your particular needs.

Signing up with the **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre**, provides you with the basic cyber information that you were never taught at school. You gain access to a free bite-sized cyber security programme. Implementing each step takes a few minutes each week. The **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre** can support you if you get stuck, and they'll provide a monthly update on all the latest threats, so that you know what to update, avoid, and delete. They offer you free webinars, to demystify things you'd like to know more about – like how to make your website safer, or how criminals target you online. They can also offer cyber services direct to your business, if you need them, from ethical hacking to staff training.

For more information about the **South-West Cyber Resilience Centre** please go here - [**Home | Cyber Resilience Centre for the South West**](#)

Claim your free membership now

Join this growing community today. It costs nothing and takes only a few minutes of your time.

⇨ Sign up here NOW: [**Join Us | Cyber Resilience Centre for the South West**](#)

You can do this. Join today and take your team's first step towards a more cyber resilient set-up.

9. Bin It Don't Block It Campaign

Every year, thousands of blockages across the Southwest region are caused by wet wipes, fats, oils, and other items being put down sinks and toilets. These can cause sewer flooding and pollution incidents that harm homes, communities, and our local environment issues that your residents report to you. Please help to share this message with those within your community.

⇨ Don't drain your Christmas spirit... or your turkey grease! The Christmas roast is the roast of all roasts! But pouring leftover fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the sink can quickly turn that festive cheer into a nasty plumbing disaster.  Bin It, Don't Block It!  <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/.../bin-it-dont-block-it>

Job Adverts – for further information please click [**here**](#)

10. **Locum Finance Officer** - St Agnes Parish Council – Immediate Start to allow for handover with outgoing post holder

11. **Locum Parish Clerk/RFO** – Menheniot Parish Council – Deadline Monday 5 January 2026

12. Part time Clerk/RFO/Burial Officer – St Mawgan-in-Pydar – Deadline Friday 30 January 2026

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

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Kind regards,

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