County Councillor Adrian Parsons: report received by email 11/11 for the Parish Council meeting that he was unable to attend.

Cornwall's Devolution Settlement and Foundation Strategic Authority Status

Cornwall has continued its push for greater local control through devolution while maintaining its long-standing position that decisions about Cornwall should be made within Cornwall and without the introduction of a directly elected mayor.

It has been agreed to pursue the Government's new "Foundation Strategic Authority" model, effectively an entry-level form of the Government's latest devolution framework. Under this arrangement, Cornwall Council itself would act as the strategic authority for Cornwall rather than creating a new combined authority or electing a mayor

The existing Level 2 Deal provides Cornwall with additional responsibilities in several areas:

* Control of the Adult Education Budget from the 2025/26 academic year, worth approximately £10 million annually.
* The establishment of a Cornwall Floating Offshore Wind Commission to accelerate renewable energy development.
* Enhanced recognition of Cornish culture, including participation in British-Irish Council meetings relating to the Cornish language and £500,000 of support for Cornish distinctiveness and language initiatives.

The Foundation Strategic Authority status provides fewer powers and less funding than the arrangements available to mayoral combined authorities elsewhere in England. Future negotiations with Government will therefore be important if Cornwall wishes to secure a deeper devolution settlement.

Changes at Cornwall Council

Last week we had an extraordinary Full Council meeting to replace Kate Kennally who served as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service at Cornwall Council. Following a period of leave of absence, she announced her decision to leave the authority. No detailed public explanation has been provided for her departure. As the Council's most senior officer, her resignation represents one of the most significant leadership changes within the organisation in recent years. Interim leadership arrangements have now included the appointment of Andy Keeling in a senior management capacity. Along with this Annabel Scholes served as Chief Operating and Finance Officer and statutory Section 151 Officer. Less than a week after the announcement regarding Kate Kennally, she submitted her resignation. The role carries responsibility for the Council's financial management and statutory financial duties. Annabel Scholes had been in post for only six months, having taken up the position in March 2026. Lisa Kitto has stepped in as the temporary interim replacement.

Rachael Rothero who served as Service Director for People Commissioning also confirmed that she would also be leaving the authority. In her role, she was responsible for significant commissioning and service delivery functions across the Council.

Neil Edmond served as Chief Executive Officer of Corserv Solutions. Although not a direct employee of Cornwall Council, his departure attracted considerable attention because of the strategic importance of the Council-owned company group. Corserv Solutions oversees a number of major subsidiaries, including Cormac, Cornwall Airport Newquay, Corserv Care, Jobline Staffing and Spaceport Cornwall. Neil Edmond left with immediate effect in November 2026 following a review of the company's long-term strategy. Neither of the last two have been directly replaced.

Highways

On going discussions have been taking place with National Highways trying to mitigate the issues we have had to deal with due to the safety works which have been taking place on the A30. Half Term as expected caused more issues due to the volume of traffic over spilling on to our local road network, but thankfully things have quietened down again now.
It's been helpful to see the Two Bridges and Polyphant junctions opened aiding local connectivity a little more.
We continue to see various roadworks along the A388 which has added to people's frustration.

Daws House
I have noticed the council highways have now implemented a temporary build out on the top traffic island making it a bit wider. It will be interesting to see how this works!

Launceston College
In October 2026, the Department for Education issued a formal Notice to Improve to Athena Learning Trust, which operates Launceston College and several other schools across Cornwall and Devon. The notice related to governance concerns within the trust. The trust stated that it was:

* Complying with all of the requirements of the Notice to Improve.
* Undertaking a review of governance.
* Implementing further changes around behaviour, inclusion and SEND provision.

It is also worth noting that Launceston College's most recent full Ofsted inspection resulted in a Good rating across all areas, including quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and sixth form provision
CC Assets
The council are currently reviewing their assets and it's looking increasingly likely they will try to sell their development land along the Link Road at Pennygillam and looking at various uses for their site on Exeter Street.

20mph Roll Out
Most areas have now seen the 20mph roll out within the Launceston network, it's going to be interesting how this settles in.

Planning
The newly proposed changes which have been rolled out by the Government have now been implemented and are in force.