

I would like to create a report that members of the Town Council want read so please let me know what you would like from this report. I'm sure that this won't be exactly what you want but I hope, at least it's a good start.

This April Cornwall Council turned 10 years old so there has been a large amount of reflection on what has happened in the last decade. One of the most important measures is what the residents think of the council; the residents survey which is carried out every year shows satisfaction with the council is at 51%, 5% higher than last year and public trust in the council is running at 58% which is higher than the national average. I've sent Cornwall Council's annual report with this report which explains the aims of the council and the progress made on those targets so far.

May has seen a change of leadership at the council; the Leader is now Julian German (Roseland) who has swapped with the new Deputy Leader Adam Paynter (Launceston North), the Chair of Cornwall Council is now Hilary Frank (Saltash South) who has swapped places with the now Deputy Chair Mary May (Penryn West).

During his speech Julian German spoke about a shift of focus for the council talking extremely passionately about culture, devolution and climate change. In particular Julian talked about a "Green Deal" for Cornwall with the aims of creating social inclusion and creating jobs through a Cornwall wide house retrofit which would reduce fuel bills, remove damp and improve peoples health.

Environmentalism seems to have moved up the political agenda a lot recently, partly because of the media attention but also because a number of council projects which have been in the works for a while are about to begin. The largest of these is the councils commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, this is a huge task and I am sure everyone can think of large hurdles that could easily get in the way of achieving it, but Cornwall Council wants to lead on this and will be producing a report in July which is seen as the first step towards this commitment.

Other environmental projects include the Green Infrastructure for Growth project which has now been completed in Saltash, the planting has finished but an establishment plan for each site will continue until the end of the year which aims to help plants establish themselves and will replace any losses in this period. In the new year the sites will return to routine maintenance through the Natural Environment contract with Cormac.

On a personal level, in May I put forward a motion to Full Council calling for a ban on netting on trees and hedgerows. This would prevent developers from covering whole areas of trees and hedgerows with the aim of removing habitats. This will only make a small difference but I am glad to say that the motion was carried and had much more support than I expected which I hope shows the councils commitment to environmental issues.

I don't want this report to turn into pages and pages of text but as this is the first report I think there are some statistics about Cornwall Council that should be included so I will list them below:

- Annual budget of £1.16 billion
- 250 statutory responsibilities
- Over 50% of budget spent on Adult Social Care and Children's services
- 5,600 employees with a further 2,600 employees within it's group of companies
- No 1 council in terms of number of affordable homes being built annually
- Homelessness fallen by 46% since November 2016 which makes Cornwall Council one of the best performing councils in the country
- Achieved Foundation Living Wage accreditation
- 74% of planning appeals successfully defended
- Schools receive 25% less funding than in London
- Number of empty homes brought back into use annually has doubled
- 98% of businesses that ask the council for advice are satisfied with the advice given