

Mayor for Cornwall Consultation Response

Councillors discussed their possible response to the consultation at their public meeting held on 19 January 2023.

The Chair was asked to draft a response to the final questions 11, 12 and 13:

11 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Cornwall Council should accept the proposed Deal including the change to an elected Mayor which is a requirement of the Deal?

- Agree strongly
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

12 Why do you say this?

13 Do you have any other comments or anything else we should consider about the proposed Deal including the changes to an elected Mayor which is a requirement of the Deal and the other proposed governance changes? This includes any positive or negative impacts on you.

The response for agreement is:

11 Disagree strongly.

12 At their public meeting held on XXXXXX, councillors resolved to support the financial benefits that would accrue by accepting the devolution deal, but do not accept the reasoning for creating the role of elected Mayor for Cornwall.

In reaching this conclusion, councillors noted representations made to them by residents and noted that: introducing a 2/3 majority vote for amendments to any resolutions tabled for corporate plans (and the annual budget) was a regressive step compared to the current system of simple majority; that creating a Mayor (and the office infrastructure needed to support them) would add an additional layer of bureaucracy that potentially moves the electorate at least one step further away from representation; that the additional income (equivalent to an average £12m pa) was not adequate compensation for the dilution of governance in Cornwall Council as it works currently.

13 That the powers planned for the Mayor that would attract additional funding and responsibilities be vested in the Chair of Cornwall Council.

Mayor for Cornwall Consultation

This consultation asks for your opinion on the proposed devolution deal for Cornwall which includes the election of a Mayor for Cornwall (and replaces the current system of an elected Chair of the council). You can choose to take part in the consultation as an individual resident (search online for 'Lets talk cornwall mayor') or make a collective response as a parish council. The survey closes on 17 February 2023.

The box below summarises the key parts of the consultation. You may wish to read sections 7 and 8 before considering the other questions. The key question (which asks if you support an elected Mayor for Cornwall) is number 11. You do not have to answer every question.

The results of the consultation will be used by Cornwall councillors help them decide if there should be a referendum to choose a Mayor. This will be discussed and voted on at the full council meeting scheduled for 18 April 2023. If councillors agree to hold a referendum, the date will be announced in due course. If the decision is taken to elect a Mayor (by whatever means), this will be part of the county elections held on 2 May 2024.

Summary of questions	
1-5	Admin for clerk to complete.
6	General question about support for devolution and extra funding (short)
7	Explanation of benefits that the devolution deal would bring (long)
8	Specific questions about benefits and your opinion (long)
9	Specific question about how new powers would support Cornwall priorities (short)
10	Changes in governance needed to support the devolution deal (short)
11	Question about agreeing to elect a Mayor for Cornwall (short)
12	Your reason (optional)
13	Your comments (optional)

- 1 In which role(s) are you responding to this survey? Please tick all that apply.
- I am a resident of Cornwall
 - I represent a business
 - I represent a voluntary and community sector organisation
 - I represent a public sector organisation (ie NHS, Police)
 - I represent a parish or town council
 - I am a local councillor (ie Cornwall Councillor, Parish or Town Councillor)

If you've indicated above that you represent a business or organisation, please provide the following details:

If you are responding as an individual, please leave blank.

2 Name of business / organisation:

3 Your role within the business / organisation:

4 Your name:

5 Is your response the formal response of your organisation?

- Yes
- No

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that devolving powers and funding from Government to Cornwall Council is a good idea?

- Agree strongly
- Somewhat agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

7 Why do you say this?

What would the Deal help us to do?

Key powers and funding the Deal would bring

- Secure long-term funding for local priorities
- Control of a new £360 million Cornwall Investment Fund over 30 years to drive growth and take forward our priorities over the longer term.
- Grow a creative and innovative carbon zero economy
- Up to £10 million for a 3-year innovation programme to invest in innovative businesses that will help rebalance the Cornish economy.
- A boost to Cornwall's ability to capitalise on our natural clean energy resources:
- Support to create a Cornwall Floating Offshore Wind Commission.
- Help to fast-track connecting the Langarth development to a zero-carbon geothermal heat source.
- More influence over the planning of our future energy infrastructure.
- More control to ensure training & skills provision meets the needs of the local economy and helps local people to get good jobs, including:
- Devolution of the core Adult Education Budget.
- Input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- Address the housing crisis.
- A Cornwall Land Commission to increase the delivery of new affordable homes and regeneration schemes on public sector-owned land.
- The ability to designate Mayoral Development Areas, and set up Mayoral Development Corporations to help deliver regeneration.
- Additional Funding:
- £8.7 million of funding for the next two years to support the building of new homes on brownfield land
- Up to £7 million capital funding to support affordable housing delivery
- £238,000 funding to develop a pipeline of affordable housing schemes for future Government investment
- Closer joint working
- To develop practical and sustainable solutions to manage the impact of tourism on the housing market.
- To encourage landlords to stay in the private rented sector and improve standards
- Improve Cornwall's transport connections
- Support to expand on the success of our 2015 devolution deal, creating a transport system that is integrated, provides reliable journey times for those getting to work or doing business, and meets the needs of our residents and helps us to achieve our ambitious target of net zero by 2030, including:
- £500,000 to accelerate the Cornwall Transport Plan by developing a pipeline of transport schemes for further Government investment.
- A new rail partnership with Great British Rail (the successor to Network Rail) to develop integrated ticketing on rail and buses.
- Collaboration on innovative local active travel schemes.
- Protect and enhance Cornwall's natural environment and landscape
- Measures that would help us to do more:
- To improve and grow nature, including by leveraging in more private sector funding.
- To maintain and protect important features of our landscape, such as Cornish hedges.
- Promote the Cornish culture, language and heritage

- £3 million capital funding to support the delivery of heritage schemes.
- £500,000 to support Cornish distinctiveness as part of commitment to support the ongoing protection and promotion of Cornish in private and public life.
- Commitment to include Cornish in any list of regional and minority languages that appears in forthcoming legislation to enable greater awareness and use of the Cornish language.
- Improve Cornwall's health services
- Collaboration on new initiatives to improve public service delivery for example to help residents with multiple complex needs.
- A boost for plans to regenerate a site in Pool to provide a new Health Hub alongside new housing for local people.
- Collaboration to test innovative ways for improving public health and tackling complex health issues such as childhood obesity and healthy ageing.

8 For each of the following powers and funding included in the Deal, please indicate how important these are for you, your business or organisation.

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

8.1 Control of a £360 million investment fund over 30 years to drive growth and take forward our priorities over the longer term

8.2 Up to £10 million for a 3-year innovation programme to invest in innovative businesses that will help rebalance the Cornish economy

8.3 A boost for green energy, including support for Floating Offshore Wind, geothermal heat and more influence over our future energy infrastructure

8.4 More control to ensure training & skills provision meets the needs of the local economy and helps local people to get good jobs

8.5 A Cornwall Land Commission to increase the delivery of new affordable homes on public sector-owned land

8.6 The ability to designate mayoral development areas, and set up Mayoral Development Corporations to help deliver regeneration

8.7 Additional funding to bring forward schemes and deliver new homes for local people

8.8 Closer joint working to manage the impact of tourism on the housing market and to encourage landlords to stay in the private rented sector

8.9 Funding and support to develop a pipeline of transport schemes and create an integrated and reliable transport system

8.10 Support to improve and grow nature and to maintain and protect important features of our landscape, such as Cornish hedges

8.11 Funding and support for heritage schemes and the protection and promotion of the Cornish language in private and public life

8.12 More collaboration between Cornwall Council, the NHS and Government to improve local health services

9 To what extent do you agree or disagree the powers and funding set out in the proposed Deal would help Cornwall Council to deliver the priorities for Cornwall?

- Agree strongly
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

10 Why do you say this?

Your views on accepting the Deal, including the change to an elected Mayor which is a requirement of the Deal

In order that powers and funding are given to Cornwall Council, Government requires the Council to make changes to its governance arrangements. The main change is to move to an elected Mayor who would provide a single point of accountability to the people of Cornwall. They could also serve as an ambassador for Cornwall at a national and international level to attract more funding to Cornwall.

The proposed governance changes would include:

- Changing from a Leader and Cabinet to an elected Mayor and Cabinet. Currently the Leader is elected by the 87 members of the Council. The elected Mayor would be directly elected by Cornwall residents eligible to vote. The elected Mayor would appoint between 2-9 members of the Council to form their Cabinet just like the Leader does now.
- The annual budget and plans and strategies proposed by the elected Mayor and Cabinet would continue to require a majority vote at Council to pass. Any amendments, not accepted by the Mayor and Cabinet would change from requiring a majority vote to a two-thirds vote to pass.
- At least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee that would hold the elected Mayor and Cabinet to account on matters relating to the Devolution Deal. This Committee would have a Chair and Vice Chair from a different political party to the elected Mayor.
- Decisions currently taken by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership would become the responsibility of the Council.

The decision whether to accept the Deal and make the required change to an elected Mayor and Cabinet governance model would need to be agreed by a majority vote at Council. The proposed Deal and the proposed change in governance go hand in hand. Without this change in governance there is no Deal, so accepting the Deal means accepting an elected Mayor for Cornwall Council

11 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Cornwall Council should accept the proposed Deal including the change to an elected Mayor which is a requirement of the Deal?

- Agree strongly
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

12 Why do you say this?

13 Do you have any other comments or anything else we should consider about the proposed Deal including the changes to an elected Mayor which is a requirement of the Deal and the other proposed governance changes? This includes any positive or negative impacts on you.