

# **CAMBORNE TOWN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2018**

## **KONSEL AN DRE KAMBRONN TOWL KORFOTHEREK 2015- 2018**



2/1/2015

## Foreword – Raglavar

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This plan is presented in the context of the changing local government scene. There is now increased focus on localism initiated by central government. This impacts on all levels of local government. Austerity and the massive financial challenges facing Cornwall Council means there is significantly enhanced pressure on local councils throughout Cornwall to take direct responsibility, including full funding, for large numbers of discretionary services previously undertaken elsewhere. All of this means the role of Camborne Town Council will change and has to expand to include local community development. To meet these challenges the Town Council has recently commissioned a root and branch review to ensure it is fit for purpose to meet the challenges ahead. Councillors and officers alike are determined to put Camborne Town Council at the heart of the community; committed to working with business, community and voluntary groups to make Camborne a good place to live, work and play.

This is the first Camborne Town Council Corporate Plan. The Plan sets out the vision and priorities of the Town Council for the next four years. The genesis for this Plan came from a Council Forward Planning and Vision Day held at the Community Centre, Camborne on Saturday 18 October 2014. This Plan is an important document for the administration, as it seeks to set out the vision and the direction in which the Council will travel during the coming years.

This plan seeks to detail what the Council is going to do, the standards of operation which it sets in running the Council's services and integrating its new and developing roles and responsibilities with its traditional ones. This can only happen if the public have a greater involvement in planning and running the town's activities.

Ultimately this Plan works to help Camborne Town Council meet its mission, namely 'To ensure Camborne is a desirable and thriving place in which to live and work by working in constructive partnership with community partners, facilitating and providing quality, sustainable and affordable services which accord with the community's needs and aspirations.'

The Council would welcome public comment on the Plan, which can be made to any of the elected members or to the Town Clerk. Contact details are shown in Appendix A.

Cllr Colin Godolphin

Town Mayor, Camborne Town Council



## Description of the Council and its services Deskrifans a'n Konsel ha'y wonisyow

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The Town Council is elected every four years. There are 18 elected members currently comprised of 2 Conservatives, 7 Labour, 1 Green, 3 Mebyon Kernow and 2 independent members; three seats are vacant but will be filled in May 2015. The next elections are due in May 2017.

The Council employs a small dedicated team of two full-time and three part-time staff. Members of the office staff work out of the Basset Centre, Basset Road and the outdoor staff from the Council's Handyman Workshop and Store at Carn Brea. The office opening hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays.

The Town Council meets monthly (except August) but many decisions are delegated to committees. Copies of the Council's core governance documents including the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and a schedule of meeting dates can be viewed on the Council's website, [www.camborne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.camborne-tc.gov.uk)

The Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession. As such the council is a person in law and is distinct from its Members (either as individuals or collectively). The lawful acts, assets and liabilities are its own and not those of its members. Councillors are responsible for making policy decisions and deciding on the Town Council's budget. Members of the Town Council also serve the community by representing the Council on a wide range of other bodies.

The Town Council's current services are relatively limited but are likely to increase significantly during the plan period. The Council maintains approximately 24 miles of public footpaths (under a service level agreement with Cornwall Council), funds approximately 90% of the costs of Camborne in Bloom and fully funds the Christmas Lantern Parade. The Council cleans and maintains specific public realm areas including the fountain and part of the Square, owns and maintains notice boards and public seats, funds the provision and monitoring of closed circuit television and provides grant funding for Trevithick Day, the Christmas lights and many local voluntary/community organisations.

The Council also has an important role in representing the town's interests in matters which are not directly in its control, for example, in commenting on all planning applications and through its civic engagement and leadership.

During the plan period the Council will maintain continuing professional development for staff and Councillors alike.



## The Council's finances Materyow arghansek an Konsel

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The Council's primary financial objective is to operate its services in an economic and efficient manner to ensure they are operated at the lowest sensible cost whilst being effective.

The Council carefully budgets for its services each year, and there are regular financial reports to each spending committee.

Throughout the autumn work is carried out to identify the issues with which the Town Council is likely to be faced when considering its budget for the following year. Existing commitments and future plans are considered as part of the process, as is the likely level of inflation. The Council's objectives are central to the process.

A key issue annually is determination of the appropriate level of Council Tax for the tax payers of Camborne. The budget process attempts to balance a number of matters and the need to provide sufficient resources in order to deliver high-quality services against the wish to keep demands on the Council Tax payer as low as is practicable.

The precept is the amount of money that the Town Council requires from the Council Tax in order to provide its services and for 2014/15 this is £316,304 equating to £61.42 per Band D taxpayer. This is significantly less than the Cornwall average for all parish and town councils, currently £77.30. The Town Council's element of all current council tax is currently 4.1%.

The Council has robust internal and external auditing processes in place and checks are carried out throughout the year to identify areas such as income and payment controls and debtor procedures. Systems audits and the checks assist in identifying areas for improvement and efficiency. Checks are carried out independently from those undertaking the process to be audited, within the constraints of a small organisation, to ensure impartiality is achieved in accordance with Corporate Governance requirements. The Council's internal audit function is fully independent of the Council's Responsible Financial Officer.



Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations the Town Council has been designated a "smaller relevant body" as it has a turnover of less than £6.5 million. The Town Council is required to produce an annual return and an income expenditure account and a statement of balances in the form which is specified in that annual return. These accounts are approved by members by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

During the plan period the Council will ensure it maintains the highest standards of financial governance and that it achieves a clean external audit each year.

**The Council's public engagement and communications strategy**  
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The Town Council recognises the need for good, clear communication as this helps residents understand what the Council is doing on behalf of the community.

By ensuring that the work and deliberations of the Council are conveyed to residents on a regular basis, in a format that is easily understood, the Council hopes to encourage feedback to ensure that the needs of the community are reflected in all decisions.

The Town Council will conduct its business by means that are transparent, sustainable and environmentally friendly and which present the best value in achieving the actions laid out in this Plan. This will include:

- \* Annual Town meeting as a forum for public views, opinions and consultation;
- \* Public Question Time before Council and Committee Meetings;
- \* Issue of press releases to local newspapers and radio stations;
- \* Issue of a Town Council newsletter on a monthly basis;
- \* User and non-user surveys and public questionnaires;
- \* The Town Council's web site as a promotional information source (this has recently been upgraded and improvements are ongoing), and
- \* Active liaison with representative groups and organisations.

During the Plan period the Council will actively seek to improve its communication with the community; further promote local democracy by encouraging more residents to stand for election to the Town Council in 2017, seek to work closely with local schools and other local youth organisations to ensure that the needs of young people are adequately addressed, and ensure its website continues to provide up-to-date information at all times regarding the Council and its work.



**The Council's service delivery plans to 2018**  
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Cornwall Council has significant budget challenges. By 2018/19 it will have to make savings totalling £196 million. With such a huge challenge, it faces the unenviable task of having to decide where and how to reduce services or increase income and to do this it has been engaged in active consultation and liaison with partners, businesses and communities, including local councils, about which services it believes should be a priority. So the issues being faced are not unique to Camborne; they are being confronted by each and every community throughout Cornwall.

The services that are most vulnerable are those that are non-statutory. These are services for which there is a power to provide and not a duty. Such services include parks, recreation grounds, open spaces, cemeteries and churchyards, public toilets and libraries. Cornwall Council's own consultation documents make clear that it wants to build a resilient and sustainable Cornwall and not simply reduce the services it provides. Amongst the new models of delivery addressed in the consultation papers was reference to "devolving further services to town and parish councils and community and voluntary groups."



Camborne Town Council appreciates that there will be local financial implications arising from any decision to take over services but equally there is recognition that many of the services highlighted are important in terms of quality of life and are much valued as a consequence. Accordingly, during the plan period, the Town Council will be negotiating robustly and responsibly with Cornwall Council and in so doing will ensure that there is ongoing consultation and engagement with the public and bona-fide groups and organisations to ensure there is community support and legitimacy for future decisions on service delivery and the inevitable financial implications arising therefrom.

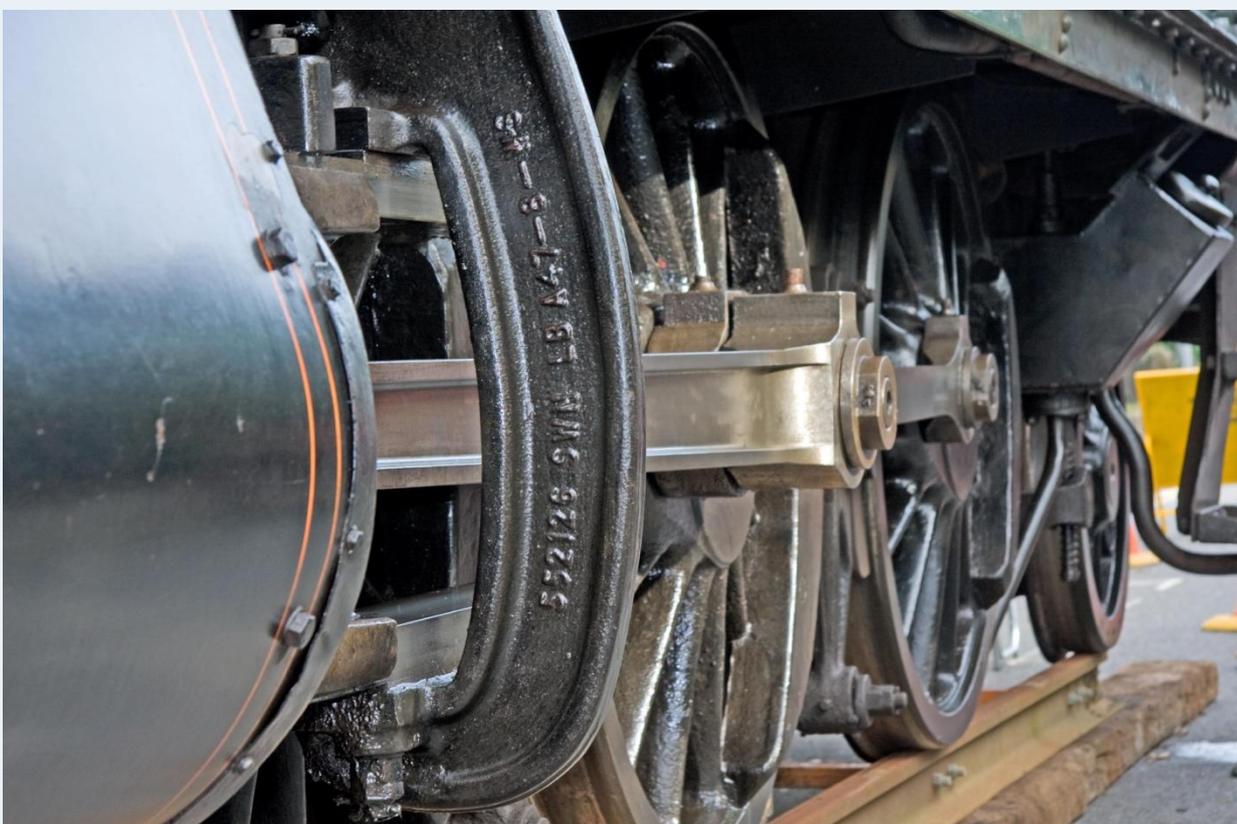
In the immediate future the Council will be seeking to address any issues arising from the independent root and branch review to ensure that its governance and staffing structure is sustainable and provides a firm foundation on which to build

## Economic development

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Over recent years Camborne's town centre has gained a reputation among residents as being in decline. There is some validity to this reputation as there are clusters of empty shops, some evidence of reduced footfall and a lack of major investment in the town centre over many years. However, it is believed that the town centre's reputation is also partly based on perception and in reality there is a good range of independent stores, investment on the fringe, including around Tesco, and much town centre community activity. Recent improvements, include the development of the Holman's site thanks to the efforts of Coastline Housing and the preservation of the town's architectural heritage through the Townscape Heritage Initiative to which the Council invested £34,500 of funding. BID Camborne has also helped provide a more positive impression of the town through promotion of the retail offer and town centre businesses. The primary responsibility for the economic development of the town centre lies with Cornwall Council, both as planning authority and owner of the current paid car park; but the Town Council, working proactively with the business community, can positively encourage town centre development by ensuring a specific focus on town centre vitality working alongside BID Camborne and Camborne Chamber of Commerce.

During the plan period the Town Council will continue to organise and/or financially support events to



promote the Town and increase visitor numbers including at Christmas, Trevithick Day, St Piran's Day and events in and around the Square. We will also work with other agencies to ensure the continued availability of town centre toilets, either traditionally run or by means of a new community initiative. As part of the Council's review of future service delivery the Town Council will negotiate with Cornwall Council to secure freehold ownership of the Town Centre's car park. Camborne is a Fairtrade Town and the Council will support the maintenance of this status in the future.

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### Contact details for your Councillors

Adopted 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 C.3327.2

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**Manylon kesteva rag agas Konseloryon**

**Pendarves Ward - Randra Pennderves**

Councillor Trevor Chalker (Labour),

email: chalkerwoods@aol.com Tel: 07809 511 920

Councillor John Gillingham (Mebyon Kernow).

email: bodrugan@hotmail.com Tel: 07956 123036

Councillor Graham Taylor (Conservative)

email: oupataylo@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01209 710166

VACANCY

**Roskear Ward - Randra Resker -**

Councillor Mrs Valerie Dalley (Labour),

email: valnoweth@googlemail.com Tel: 01209 713116

Councillor Trevor Dalley (Labour),

email: vanoweth@googlemail.com Tel: 01209 713116

Councillor Ms Jude Robinson (Labour),

email: jude.robinson@btinternet.com Tel: 01209 218814 or 07910 847309

VACANCY

**Trelowarren Ward - Randra Treleweren**

Councillor Adam Crickett (Labour),

email: adamcrickett@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07891 113195

Councillor Ms Zoe Fox (Mebyon Kernow)

email: zoefox@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01209 711791

Councillor Colin Godolphin (Independent),

Tel: 07907 798321

Councillor Stuart Odgers (Conservative),

email: stuartodgers@hotmail.com Tel: 01209 718300

**Treslothan Ward - Randra Tresulwedhen**

Councillor Ms Jacqueline Merrick (Green Party),

email: jnmerrick@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01209 710695

Councillor Alan Sanders (Mebyon Kernow),

email: cllr.alansanders@googlemail.com Tel: 01209 714415

Councillor Robert Webber (Labour),

email: rwebber@cornwall.gov.uk Tel: 01209 711360

**Treswithian Ward - Randra Trevaswedhen**

Councillor Mike Champion (Independent),

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Councillor Matthew Brown (Labour),

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VACANCY

**Contact Details for the Town Council**

**Manlyon Kestava rag Konsel an Dre**

The Town Clerk, Amanda Mugford BA, Pg.Dip.,

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The Basset Centre,

Basset Rd, Camborne,

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