

14. CORNWALL COUNCIL – DEVOLUTION PACKAGE (ATTACHMENT A) – UPDATE – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU B)

To note that a further meeting has been held with the Cornwall Council Devolution team. In other towns a “Place Based Devolution Package” has been progressed over a period of 5 years+. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU attached) has been suggested. This would confirm a willingness in both Councils to progress consideration of the package. This would not commit the Town Council from talking all or part of the package. An MoU was used between both Councils 2018-2022 to consider the redevelopment of the cattle market and the “Cattle Market Makers” project.

Background – The Town Council was one of 75 Town and Parish Councils to submit an Initial Proposal Form (IPF) to Cornwall Council for the Devolution of assets within their town or parish.

Cornwall Council has developed a “place-based approach” to Devolution in which packages of income generating assets and revenue costing liabilities are grouped together in such a way that Cornwall Council believes for them. That the loss of income and costs would be revenue neutral. During the intervening time, there has been:

- Castle Park – the largest single site owned by Cornwall Council was became after the significant investment in the site a priority for transfer.
- Westbourne Gardens – is the subject of a 10year management agreement (2018/2028).
- Cattle Market Regeneration – with the use of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has featured as a significant element of work with a 3-year lease for the Events Area and thereafter, much work on the Cattle Market Makers project 2019-2022.
- Cornwall Council in partnership with the Real Ideas Organisation (RIO) have delivered a £1.2 million improvement to the fabric of the library building and an improvement in services provided included covered.
- Workshed - £5.7million investment in business units floorspace.
- Integrated Services Hub. – which is current project £11 million.
- Transport Hub – which should be provided in the next year or so.
- Town Council – set aside an annual sum £10,000 to obtain external legal and technical assessments on sites proposed for Devolution. £30,000 was invested in Photo Voltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the Public Hall. In subsequent years the combined £40,000 has enabled us to investment in improvements in Town Council's own property most notably the Public Hall (4 years combined helping to fund the first phase) – later projects covered including the Public Hall Conveniences and the most recently the Mayors Parlor. The £40,000 no longer appears as a “Devolution” budget.

Factors for Consideration - We have been speaking to other Town Councils on their experiences with Devolution. On upfront legal and surveying costs, timescales and examples of good and bad experiences and issues from (for example, St Ives Town Council is in year 2 of 5 year package. St. Austell Town Council has completed a 17 item Devolution Package and has had some years to look back on the experience and Falmouth Town Council has had several series of Devolution packages.). This should help our Town Council to assess the implications of taking on a 32 item Devolution package.

Own Capital Projects in the next 5 years – We also need to bear this in mind our own projects at the Public Hall (Main Hall itself and Council Chamber), Guildhall, Skatepark/MUGA, Roundbury (phased project), Sports Site Acquisition (Sports Pitches and associated infrastructure), Castle Park (initial phases post transfer issues and subsequent phases) and the Persimmon allotments.

Clerk's Observations - Initial thinking is that given the scope of the Devolution Package and our own building and facilities projects a 5-year capital programme and plan is needed and this would be one of items looked at a special meeting. In the meantime, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be way securing the resources of the Cornwall Council Devolution team in the process.

15. GOVERNMENT (NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK) – CORNWALL COUNCIL (INTERIM POLICY POSITION STATEMENT) – NEIGHBOURHOODS PRIORITY STATEMENTS – UPDATE – To note that the attached 15.a. (as of 5th February 2025) are the sites in or near and influencing Liskeard that have been submitted in the Cornwall Council “Call for Sites” to help meet the Governments’ objectives of increasing the delivery of housing. These include some sites that are mixed (including employment and recreational). There will be a screening of sites including their deliverability.

Next Steps – Councillor Nick Craker (Cornwall Council) has spoken to the Head of Planning and explained the meeting dates of the Town Council meeting and obtained an approval of the later submission of the response.

3rd March 2025 – Planning Committee – to consider the attached listing (15.a.) within the context of the 4 specific questions, not the least of which is how deliverable are the sites.

19th March 2025 – Cornwall Council – deadline for submissions. (Extension granted to accommodate the Town Council 25th March 2025 ratifying the recommendations of the 3rd March 2025 Planning Committee).

25th March 2025 – Town Council meeting to sign off the considerations of the 3rd March 2025 Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the above timetable of action is approved.