**Case For Cornwall**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**General**

**Q** – Can Cornwall Council provide assurances on how it will manage and deliver the asks in the Case for Cornwall as there are some concerns over its ability to manage its current affairs.

**A** - Although being led by Cornwall Council the Case for Cornwall cannot be delivered without the agreement and support of key public sector partners. Working closely together we believe that we are in a strong position to deliver services better locally, whilst making savings through removing central government bureaucracy. The resources required and ability to deliver each of the elements of Case for Cornwall, alongside potential risks, are being closely examined.

**Q** – Does Cornwall Council intend to devolve more powers over local issues to Towns and Parish Councils and partners?

**A** – Yes, the Case for Cornwall is also about ‘Double Devolution’, gaining powers and freedoms from central Government and where appropriate devolving these to other organisations that can suitably deliver services.

The Case for Cornwall is about enabling local communities to have more influence over the public services in Cornwall and if another organisation is best placed to deliver an effective service Cornwall Council will support this.

**Housing**

**Q** - Salaries are low and house prices are high in Cornwall, how does the Case for Cornwall help to deliver more affordable and sustainable housing for local people?

**A** - The Case for Cornwall wants to tackle this issue head on through the development of a single housing investment programme. We want to gain access to more land from Government, particularly brownfield sites, to develop housing. This housing will be mixed tenure to adequately meet the needs of Cornwall’s communities. We want to locally retain a proportion of stamp duty which is currently paid to Government and reinvest this to accelerate new housing development.
Q - Cornwall has many second homes and holiday homes and this is creating a challenge for the working people of Cornwall.

A - We also want to investigate methods to manage the high number of second homes to ensure sustainable and viable communities. The best method to do this is being investigated, potentially through a second homes levy and by working with Government to prevent tax loopholes.

**Transport**

Q - Cornwall Council has plans to develop 47,000 houses through its Local Plan however our current infrastructure is already strained (roads, schools, rail links and hospitals). How will it cope with the increased demand? Is the Case for Cornwall seeking to improve the current infrastructure so that it can successfully meet the demand of the future?

A - If Cornwall could have its own local Planning Practice Guidance it could produce a locally appropriate methodology for agreeing development viability and highways impacts. The current national Planning Policy Framework does not recognise Cornwall’s dispersed road network and traffic demand. Large scale infrastructure decisions are made nationally which restricts the opportunities Cornwall could explore, especially around geothermal renewable energy.

Q – Many people feel isolated in communities across Cornwall and the current level of public transport provided is not sufficient to meet our needs.

A - If Cornwall Council has control over franchising all bus services in Cornwall we would be able to ensure that the whole public transport system (including trains) is integrated and works better together to meet the needs of communities. Improvements to services and accessibility would be made, in particularly in rural areas with community bus schemes linking to main bus networks.

**Planning**

Q – With many new homes being built and the large number of second homes there is a concern that our unique Cornish identity, heritage and culture could be lost. How will the Case for Cornwall help protect this?

A – We recognise that Cornwall is unique, what works in Manchester isn’t necessarily appropriate for Cornwall and what is the best option for one place in Cornwall may not be suitable for somewhere else. Therefore we are asking Government to allow us to develop our own Planning Practice Guidance to sit
alongside the existing National Planning Policy Framework. This local guidance will consider sustainable development that reflects Cornwall’s uniqueness. We will also establish our own definition of affordable housing, taking into consideration the disparity in local wages and house prices.

**Employment and Skills**

**Q** – Cornwall needs to be able to offer high quality, highly skilled jobs that enable people to afford to buy houses. There is a lack of skilled jobs.

**A** – All aspects of Case for Cornwall are interlinked, we want to ensure people have access to gain the skills needed for Cornwall’s economy and will focus on delivering this through integrated budgets. This will be alongside other themes of the Case for Cornwall which work towards supporting the economy to create higher wages, improve someone’s ability to afford housing and provide access to transport so people can reach available jobs.

**Q** – Would the Case for Cornwall support concessions and incentives for our young people to stay at school to ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to meet demand?

**A** – If we had control over franchising the bus network we would be able to offer concessions for students to be able to travel to college or school, with the current delivery structure we aren’t in a position to do this.

**Health**

**Q** – The current system is failing, how will the Case for Cornwall improve this situation?

**A** – The Case for Cornwall expresses the wish to place the individual at the centre, enabling them to take control, reduce dependency and improve their physical and mental wellbeing. It will make improvements by coordinating support and care through an integrated multi-disciplinary team of practitioners, including volunteers. Through joining up finances and commissioning efficiencies can be made, enabling resources to be used more flexibly to meet demand pressures.

**Funding**

**Q** – We are interested to hear about the Case for Cornwall however there are concerns regarding how it will all be funded. This should not mean more taxes for the people of Cornwall. If the Case for Cornwall is successful, it will mean extra responsibility for Cornwall Council, has this been costed?
A – Many of the asks within Case for Cornwall are about getting freedoms and flexibilities to enable us to deliver services differently and more efficiently, if we can make savings in some areas we can reinvest this in areas that people have identified as a priority. Other aspects include receiving devolved funding or assets from central Government and this is all being analysed closely to ensure that it is the right thing for Cornwall. Cornwall’s tax payers will not incur any additional costs as a result of this deal.