



12 February 2018

## **SOUTH WEST PENINSULA COUNCILS JOIN TOGETHER IN CALL FOR FAIRER FUNDING**

South West Peninsula Councils today called for a fairer funding deal from Government as each Council is under pressure to increase Council tax rates.

The Local Government Association has already warned that the majority of Councils will have little choice but to increase bills, in order to protect vital services amid a £2.3billion "funding gap" in the social care system. The sticking plaster of an extra £150million for one year only isn't a cure.

The Chair of the LGA, Lord Porter, has urged the government to consider the challenges facing councils and offer them better funding, saying many councils are now beyond the point where council tax income can be expected to plug the funding gaps they face.

We share Lord Porter's concerns that the quality of services provided by local authorities could suffer regardless of an injection of funds from council tax, as the funding gap will still exist.

We recently saw a further example of the current disparity in maintenance funding for national and local roads.

New analysis by the LGA last week revealed the Government plans to spend £1.1 million per mile to maintain its strategic road network between 2015 and 2020. In comparison, it will provide councils with just £21,000 per mile for the local roads they maintain over the same period.

This has prompted a call for the Government to reinvest 2 pence per litre of existing fuel duty into local road maintenance, which would generate £1 billion a year for councils to spend on improving roads and filling potholes.

These examples clearly illustrate the funding challenges being faced by local authorities, and for the need for there to be meaningful reforms to the way funding is allocated.

This is not about political blame. Whether you live in Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Somerset, Dorset, Torbay or Camden, you should be able to access the same standard of services but there is a fast increasing gap that disadvantages the Peninsula, based on the way national funding is allocated.

### **Konsel Kernow**

Cornwall Council, County Hall

Truro, TR1 3AY

Tel: 0300 1234 100 [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

We have all faced significant budget challenges and these will only get harder as central Government funding reduces even further by 2020.

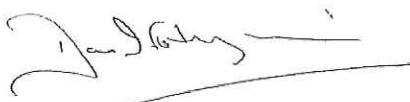
We are united in our desire to not pass on tax increases to local residents to fill the gap in funding, but without central government funding formulas changing, the pressure on local residents will continue.

Yours sincerely

South West Council Leaders



**Cllr Adam Paynter**  
Leader of Cornwall Council  
New County Hall, Truro



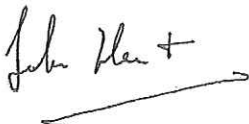
**Cllr David Fothergill**  
Leader of Somerset County Council  
PP B3E1, County Hall, Taunton



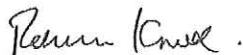
**Cllr Gordon Oliver**  
Elected Mayor of Torbay Council  
Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay



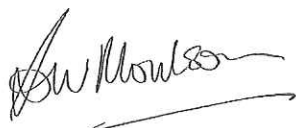
**Cllr Ian Bowyer**  
Leader of Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth



**Cllr John Hart**  
Leader of Devon County Council  
Bellair Office, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter



**Cllr Rebecca Knox**  
Leader of Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester



**Cllr Ted Moulson**  
Leader of Isles of Scilly Council  
Town Hall, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly