

OUR PLAN FOR A BETTER CORNWALL



CORNWALL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: 4TH MAY 2017

HOW WE WILL DELIVER A BETTER CORNWALL.

**By Conservative Group Leader
Cllr John Keeling MBE**



All of us know that Cornwall can be better. After four years of indecision and incompetence from the Liberal Democrats and Independents, our county risks falling further behind.

Cornwall has been consistently let down. Four years of talking about what to do rather than getting on and delivering it. Four years of financial mismanagement rather than focusing on ensuring that taxpayers are getting value for money from the services that they deserve. Four years of ill thought-out schemes rather than a plan that can deliver meaningful action for our communities.

With the right leadership that can begin to change.

Our Plan for a Better Cornwall will:

- 1. Ensure that every resident gets value for money by improving financial management, reducing waste and making funds available for essential services.**
- 2. Ensure that residents get the care they need by restructuring how adult social care is provided and reducing the delays that residents experience.**
- 3. Deliver better local infrastructure by reviewing how companies should be invited to tender and giving local councillors the money they need to fix local problems.**

This is our plan for a better Cornwall. Not more of the same, but a real plan that prioritises the people that really matter – you, your family and your community.

Our Plan for a Better Cornwall

After four years of indecision and incompetence from the Liberal Democrats and Independents, our county risks falling behind.

These years of mismanagement, incompetence and inaction must stop and our plan for a better Cornwall will ensure that it does.

Our Plan for a Better Cornwall will:

Ensure that every resident gets value for money.

We believe that the most important person in Cornwall is you, the taxpayer. But rather than focusing on ensuring that taxpayers are getting value for money from the services that they deserve, for the last four years we have seen financial mismanagement.

That is why we will act. We will ensure that no more of your money is wasted on unworkable traffic schemes, over-optimistic bids for glory projects and lavish new offices. We will take decisions that will improve the efficiency of the Council by ensuring that more of the decisions and planning are done as locally as possible by our City, Town and Parish Councils or by neighbouring Councils working together.

Ensure that residents get the care they need.

We want to improve Adult Social Care in Cornwall so that we are caring for all those that are vulnerable. The council will receive over £40 million from the Government's Better Care Fund and are levying the social care precept so that £146 million will be available by 2019/20 to spend on social care – we need to make best use of this money so we can provide the elderly and vulnerable with the support they need.

That is why we will act. We will restructure how adult care is provided and test the efficiency of care by providing impromptu checks on services throughout the county.

Deliver better local infrastructure.

At the moment, the relationship between the Council and companies that provide our local infrastructure is not good enough. Despite many of our road schemes being delayed and not up to standard, costing us millions, the Liberal Democrats and Independents continue to allow Cormac Solutions a free rein on contracts.

That is why we will act. We will carry out a full structural review of the value for money of our road repairs, transport and highways provision. We will ensure greater transparency and build a better relationship with the companies that provide our local infrastructure. To ensure that residents get the services that they deserve, we will consult closely with local councils and councillors to fix local problems.

Our Plan for a Better Cornwall



SUPPORTING OUR TOWN CENTRES

We will ensure our car parking charges support local people, town

centres and drivers and we will look at free parking hours to suit business need. We feel the current charges need to be reviewed to ensure we support rather than damage our local economy, businesses and shops. We will pass more responsibility for local decisions to the City and Town Councils. They know what is best for their community.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Agreements are negotiated with developers so communities have a fund for locally agreed facilities. Hundreds of thousands of pounds are sitting unspent but are time-limited. We will make sure the monies are used on locally agreed projects. We will abolish business rates on public toilets making them a viable community facility. We will work hand in hand with Parish and Town Councils on ways to maintain our public areas.



BOOSTING THE CORNISH ECONOMY

We will work with our six Conservative MPs, the

Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership to maximise the opportunities that lie ahead – including for business expansion, rising wage levels and further investment in roads, rail and broadband.

We will also fight alongside our MPs to secure the best possible funding post Brexit and ensure Cornwall continues to be recognised as a county with unique circumstances.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

We support the move to reduce the number of councillors from the current number of 123 to 85. There are also too many meetings, many of which fail to make decisions and have to reconvene. All this costs time and money. We need to be focusing on things that matter to the people of Cornwall and stop spending so long on political wrangling. There need to be fewer meetings, they need to have more purpose and decisions need to be made quickly - time costs money.



SUPPORT OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY

The Cornish countryside and coastline are vital to our economy and must be

protected. We will ensure our beaches are maintained and pristine, to encourage people to come back year after year.

Conservative councillors in coastal areas have worked with the Marine Conservation Society to record and clean up rubbish washed up on our beaches. They are keen to continue to do this to make sure wildlife and sea life are protected from dangerous materials.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe in supporting children around our county. We will scrap the "Surf Tax". We will support our surf schools and help local children stay safe in the sea.



Some £246,000 is distributed to councillors across Cornwall each year to use on community projects. We will encourage every Conservative councillor to use at least one third of their budget of £2,000, if not more, on local youth groups and facilities.



RESPONSIBLE PLANNING

We understand the need for more homes for local people. We will work with local people, the Parish, Town and City Councils to ensure

planning is sympathetic to the local area. Government has provided big budgets for new and affordable homes; we will see to it that local areas benefit. We will also give planning enforcement the resources needed to carry out its work properly. There also needs to be improved building control of projects in progress. Too often developers push the boundaries and the finished work deviates too much from the approved plans.

WASTE AND FLY-TIPPING

We will review the response to fly-tipping and ensure that we have a service that is fit for purpose and deals with complaints within 2 working days.



We will also review the opening hours of the community waste and recycling centres to take into consideration the working population of Cornwall and look at the viability of opening two evenings a week. We will continue weekly black bin collections of non-recyclable household waste.