

**To receive a report on Cornwall Councils provision for Adult Education and
consider any actions and associated expenditure**

Report to: Full Council

Date of Report: 31.08.25

Officer Writing the Report: Town Clerk / RFO

Pursuant to: Full Council held 3 July 2025 minute 156/25/26

Officers Recommendations

Members are invited to consider supporting the reintroduction and promotion of Adult Education in Saltash by delegating authority to the Town Clerk to write to Cornwall Councillor Frank. The letter will express the Town Council's interest in this important service and our commitment to working collaboratively with Cornwall Council to help deliver a high-quality Adult Education offer for our community.

Report Summary

Following Cornwall Councillor Frank's brief update at last month's Full Council meeting, it is excellent news that Councillor Tim Dwelly, Cornwall Council's Portfolio Holder, recognises the importance of Adult Education. He is now actively exploring what a revitalised adult learning offer could look like for Cornwall.

Even more encouraging is that Saltash is being prioritised. It has been identified as one of the towns where provision has been significantly affected, and there is a clear commitment to ensuring that learners here are not left behind.

While there was a shared view that the previous service in Saltash was not fit for purpose, it is important to note that Cornwall Council is now both the commissioner and provider of the service. They acknowledge that improvements are needed and are keen to work collaboratively with local Town Councils to shape a more effective and responsive offer.

Cornwall Council's dual role includes:

- **Commissioner** – We are responsible for planning and funding adult learning across Cornwall. This includes deciding which providers receive funding and making sure the courses offered meet local needs and priorities.
- **Provider** – We also run our own Adult Education Service, which is one of several organisations funded to deliver adult learning in the county.

In terms of venues, the Wesley Church, which previously hosted the service, remains a viable option. It can accommodate up to 14 learners per class and is readily available due to its existing setup. However, other suitable venues in Saltash may also be considered to meet local demand.

If Members believe that another provider—such as [On Course South West](#)—could better meet the needs of Saltash learners, the process is straightforward. Encore SW would simply need to register with Cornwall Council to be added to the approved provider list.

Reflecting on past meetings with Members, it was clear that promotion of the service was lacking. Going forward, it is essential that marketing and outreach are significantly improved to ensure that those who need training are aware of the opportunities available. This will help more residents access support and progress into further education or employment.

Members are encouraged to express their interest in reintroducing Adult Education in Saltash and to work with Cornwall Council to help deliver a high-quality, inclusive service for our community.

For further details, please refer to **Cornwall Council's Briefing Note – Appendix A.**

How Does This Meet the Business Plan?

Saltash Town Council recognises the vital role of educational wellbeing in empowering individuals through training and support that open pathways to future opportunities, such as higher education and employment. By supporting Cornwall Council in reintroducing Adult Education services, the Town Council is helping to deliver on two key strategic priorities:

- Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity
- Improving Health and Wellbeing

Signature of Officer:

Town Clerk / RFO