

To receive Cornwall Council's Town and Parish Council Survey into local Van Dwellers and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

Report to: Full Town Council

Date of Report: 6 August 2026

Officer Writing the Report: Administration Officer

Purpose of the report:

To consider submitting a response to the survey questions on behalf of the Town Council.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the information provided, are encouraged to submit individual responses, and to consider whether a collective response should be submitted on behalf of Saltash Town Council.

Report Summary

The Council has been contacted by Cornwall Council's Planning and Housing Service, which is undertaking research on behalf of the Housing Portfolio Holder, Councillor Olly Monk La Broy, to gain a clearer understanding of the prevalence of van dwelling across Cornwall.

Information relating to this group is currently limited, as individuals living in vans are often highly mobile, move frequently between locations, and may not be recorded through conventional housing or residency databases. As a result, obtaining accurate data regarding the scale and characteristics of van dwelling presents a significant challenge.

For the purposes of this research, van dwellers should not be confused with members of the travelling community. Whilst both groups may reside in vehicles, van dwellers are generally individuals who live in converted vans or similar vehicles, either as a lifestyle choice or as a consequence of housing affordability issues and limited access to suitable accommodation.

Research Objectives

The research seeks to:

- Establish the scale of van dwelling within Cornwall.
- Improve understanding of the circumstances and needs of van dwellers.
- Inform future housing policy, service provision, and strategic planning.
- Support evidence-based decision-making in relation to housing and homelessness issues.

Supporting Information

Further details regarding the research project are provided in **Appendix A - Van Dwellers Briefing Note**.

The questionnaire that forms part of the research is attached as **Appendix B - Van Dwellers Survey**.

Signature of Officer:

Administration Officer