

# **To receive a report on Tranche 1 Devolution and consider any actions and associated expenditure**

**Report to:** Services Committee

**Date of Report:** 26.08.26

**Officer Writing the Report:** Town Clerk / RFO

**Purpose of the report:** To provide Members with an update on the progress of Tranche 1 Devolution Package.

**Pursuant Minute:** Services Committee 11/26/27

## **Officer's Recommendations**

Members are asked to consider the following, based on the most recent information provided within the report summary:

1. To note that Cornwall Council have been informed of the Town Council's approval to accept the new Heads of Terms for Longstone Depot, we now await the Lease for signing.
2. To confirm that it remains the Town Council's intention to proceed with the devolution of Jubilee Green and Waterside Green, accepting responsibility for the management, maintenance and safety of both sites, as detailed in **Appendix A and B**, irrespective of whether the transfer of Longstone Depot progresses simultaneously.
3. To note that the devolution of Longstone Depot is more complex due to its retention within the wider Longstone Park site and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to continue negotiations with Cornwall Council officers regarding the depot transfer, recognising that progress is likely to be achieved within a medium-term timeframe.
4. To delegate to the Town Clerk to continue working with Cornwall Council to secure an agreed solution for accommodating a welfare cabin adjacent to the depot garage within the terms of the lease, to support the day-to-day operation of Town Council ground services.

5. Does the future devolution of Longstone Park as a whole represent a long-term aspiration for the Town Council, and whether this should be incorporated into future strategic planning as the Council continues to develop its resources and financial capacity. For clarity, Longstone Park toilet block forms part of the wider Longstone Park site.
6. To note; subject to approval of Agenda Item 16, the Town Clerk is to work with Members of the Play Parks, Open Spaces and Street Furniture Working Group in relation to Tranche 1 Devolution.

## **Report Summary**

A positive meeting took place with the Community Link Officer (Devolution) and the Community Link Officer regarding the Town Council's Tranche 1 Devolution package.

Cornwall Council have been very clear regarding an early management licence for Jubilee Green and Waterside Green to undertake the Town Council's aspirations in that it can't be facilitated for the site because it could be significantly re-developed in ways not of Cornwall Council's choosing leaving them exposed. This mainly refers to the install of a new play park.

There may be an opportunity to agree to a management licence to allow the sensory garden work to take place whilst the devolution runs parallel – awaiting confirmation from Cornwall Council.

The CIL officer has confirmed that the funds remain set aside for the Town Council to undertake both the sensory and play area and understands that the sea defence work halted the project and now a legal way forward for the Town Council to commence work on a Cornwall Council site. When the time comes, the Working Group will be called to consider both project cost against available funding as it is expected that cost will have risen.

The opportunity for the Town Council to work in partnership with Cornwall Council on the potential transfer of Longstone Park as a whole represents an exciting prospect for both the Town Council and the wider community of Saltash.

The Town Council has a strong track record of delivering services to a high standard, and it is reasonable to conclude that there is significant potential to enhance and develop the site further through local ownership and management. However, it is important to recognise that the Town Council is not currently in a position to commit to the transfer. At this stage, Members are invited to consider whether acquiring Longstone Park should form part of the Council's long-term strategic ambitions and, if so, begin exploring a shared vision for the site and the steps required to achieve it.

**Signature of Officer:**

Town Clerk