

Report to Saltash Town Council October 2026

Cllr. Hilary Frank

Representing Saltash Essa, *Konseler Kernow Essa*



SALTASH LEISURE CENTRE

The Registration Service had been hoping to relocate to the Saltash Leisure Centre in October, but it is looking like this will be delayed as work needs to be carried out to improve privacy in the customer waiting area. Equally, the Safe and Wellbeing Hub can't open until November as there is still work being carried out on swipe card access and fire safety measures. I will update Town Council when the revised opening dates are confirmed.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN SALTASH

Several residents have contacted me about antisocial behaviour in Saltash. I have raised their concerns with the Acting Inspector and we have been discussing what can be done. The police have agreed to carry out a planned operation targeting concerns about vehicles and driving in Saltash. I welcome that commitment and will keep in touch about the outcome.

FRIDGES AND FREEZERS AT HWRCs

A national collection and processing issue that stopped sites accepting broken fridges and freezers over the summer has been resolved, and they can again be taken to Saltash Household Waste and Recycling Centre, or any other Cornwall HWRC.

CHILDREN'S HOME APPLICATION, MEADWAY

Planning application PA26/05790 proposes turning a house on Meadway into a home for up to two children, run by an independent provider rather than Cornwall Council. I have asked for more information about the provider and its plans for Ofsted registration, which would be required before the home could open.

LET'S TALK ABOUT CORNWALL

The rising cost of living has meant changes and difficult choices for many families in Saltash. Cornwall Council's finances are tight too, and as we shape next year's budget, we need to understand which services matter most to people and what life is like in their local area. I want Saltash voices to be heard in those decisions. Our [Let's Talk about Cornwall survey](#) is a chance to tell us what is working, what is affecting your neighbourhood and where you think we should focus our efforts. I hope Town Councillors will complete it and encourage others to do the same. The survey closes on **1st November 2026**.

HOUSING DASHBOARD

At Full Council on 15th September, I supported a motion calling for a clearer and fairer Cornwall Homechoice system. Around 25,000 households are on Cornwall's housing register. Each month, about 500 new applications are received, while around 120 households secure a home. That leaves many people and families facing a long wait without a clear idea of their prospects.

We will now work on proposals for an online dashboard showing how many households are waiting, how many homes are being let and typical waiting times. It cannot create the homes we need, but it could help people understand what to expect and make more informed decisions.

MENTAL HEALTH IN CORNWALL

Each year, Cornwall Council's Director of Public Health chooses a topic he considers particularly important for his annual report. This year, he has chosen mental health and wellbeing. His [2026 report](#) has just been published, and looks at how housing, income and our connections with other people affect how we feel, and why people need support before they reach crisis point.

I am concerned by what the report tells us. The proportion of adults recorded as living with depression in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has risen from around 6% a decade ago to 14.6% in 2024/25. Contacts with community and outpatient mental health services have also risen particularly sharply among under-25s.

I'm setting up and will chair a Cabinet Advisory Group on mental health and wellbeing in schools. I want us to listen to young people, families and schools, look at where the pressures are and where help is difficult to access, and consider how we can support children earlier. The group will report in spring 2027.

Cornwall Council Leader Cllr Leigh Frost has also convened a Mental Health Summit for Friday 30th October. It will bring together health, care and community organisations and will be livestreamed on the Council's Facebook and YouTube channels. I encourage Town Councillors to [submit a question for the panel](#), particularly about concerns they hear from people in Saltash. Questions need to be submitted by **9am on Monday 5th October**. The panel won't be able to answer every question during the summit, but the questions discussed on the day will reflect the main themes raised.

INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We have appointed Andy Keeling as Interim Deputy Chief Executive of Cornwall Council while Chief Executive Kate Kennally is on a leave of absence. Before coming to Cornwall, he held roles as Head of Paid Service at Leicester City Council and Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government. Cabinet has already had several in-depth discussions about the Council's budget with him, and I've appreciated the financial insight Andy has brought.

CASE FOR CORNWALL

Since my last report, we have been working on the Case for Cornwall: what powers and support would make a practical difference here. That includes ideas arising from the [Cornwall Dentistry Summit](#), where partners called for more local flexibility to tackle barriers around dental commissioning and the workforce.

There have been further encouraging conversations with Government. In mid-September, the Prime Minister told MPs he was willing to discuss powers to address Cornwall's particular problems with second homes as part of a devolution deal. In an interview with BBC Radio Cornwall in late September, Deputy Labour Leader Lucy Powell said there was "lots and lots of activity and conversations going on" around devolution. She reiterated that Cornwall would not need a mayor and pointed to greater local control over buses, acknowledging that rural bus services cost more to run.