Cornwall Councillor's Report to Saltash Town Council

Submitted by: Cllr Keith Johnson
Division: Saltash Tamar
Reporting period: September 2026

This report brings together recent public updates, correspondence and email drafts. Proposed actions are distinguished from completed work, and confidential casework details have been excluded.

1. Burraton site and proposed Aldi development

Since being elected, I have raised residents' concerns about the proposed disposal and development of the Burraton site. My work has included raising the matter at Full Council, attending a public protest, meeting Saltash Saving Our Green Spaces and Aldi's consultants, and writing to Cornwall Council's Chief Executive and senior officers.

My correspondence has sought clarity about the disposal process, consultation and the implications for existing community use. I have also pursued concerns about unanswered correspondence and the handling of these matters.

My focus remains on transparency and ensuring that residents' concerns are properly considered. Any planning application must be assessed through the formal planning process, with residents able to submit representations.

2. Road safety, speeding and transport concerns

Residents continue to raise concerns about speeding, including on Fairmead Road. Following a recent speed camera van visit, a resident reported a marked improvement in driving behaviour while the van was present, followed by a return to speeding afterwards.

Recent correspondence requests temporary traffic monitoring cables over a continuous period, ideally longer than 24 hours. This would provide a more representative picture of traffic speeds throughout the day and night and help inform consideration of further measures.

Separate concerns about night-time speeding reinforce the need for monitoring outside normal daytime periods. Road noise and pressure on local transport infrastructure also remain continuing issues.

3. Fore Street smart hub and digital advertising

I have submitted objections concerning applications **PA26/00853 and PA26/00854**, relating to the pavement outside 6 Fore Street.

My representations address:

- Pedestrian accessibility, usable pavement width and disabled access.
- Highway safety, visibility and potential driver distraction.
- Illumination and night-time amenity.
- The character of the street, cumulative street furniture and heritage considerations.
- Access to nearby premises and the claimed public benefits.

I have requested that the planning and advertisement consent applications are assessed separately. Correspondence with officers has also addressed how my objections are summarised for members.

A hospital appointment prevents my attendance, so I have sought to ensure that my representations are available when the proposals are considered.

4. Housing allocations and local connections

Recent resident correspondence has raised allegations that Birmingham City Council is purchasing a substantial number of homes in Saltash. These allegations remain unverified and should not be presented as established fact.

The matters requiring clarification include ownership, intended occupation and compliance with any applicable Section 106 restrictions and local connection requirements.

Where residents live outside Saltash Tamar Division, correspondence should be coordinated with their divisional councillor, including Cllr Hilary Frank where appropriate.

I continue to receive wider concerns about housing growth and the capacity of local infrastructure.

5. Support for Saltash businesses

I have promoted opportunities for local businesses to access training in social media, artificial intelligence and website development.

Following public outreach, ten businesses were visited directly:

Response	Businesses
Interested	4
Not interested	4
Unsure	2

These responses indicate potential demand but do not represent confirmed course bookings.

The Town Team Committee needs to decide whether to pursue the proposal. Its consideration should include existing free training, the potential offer from Saltash Studios, delivery arrangements, resources and the need to avoid duplication.

6. Early years and childcare

I have received concerns about the financial position and potential closure of St Nicholas and St Faith Preschool.

Draft correspondence identifies the need to establish the financial shortfall, understand what assistance has already been sought and explore available support with Cornwall Council's Early Years service. A visit and further discussion with those involved have also been proposed.

The immediate concern is the potential impact on children, parents and access to affordable local childcare. No funding or continued operation has been confirmed in the material informing this report.

7. Children, families and education scrutiny

Through Together for Families scrutiny, I am developing proposals to examine inequalities in educational outcomes, including the gender attainment gap, early literacy, SEND and exclusions.

Recent draft material also identifies questions about foster carer recruitment, the conversion of enquiries into approved carers, barriers to assessment and the capacity of assessment and support teams.

The proposed approach seeks evidence-led recommendations, clear responsibility, measurable improvements and subsequent review of progress.

8. School travel and education provision

Recent scrutiny preparation has covered the Education Strategy, home-to-school and post-16 travel assistance, Curriculum Kernewek and children's social care performance.

The questions being developed concern affordability, accessibility, demand, staffing and the implications for families. Where changes are proposed, members need clear information about costs, consultation, delivery commitments and how their effects will be assessed.

9. Proposed children's residential provision

I have received preliminary contact about a proposed children's residential care home on Callington Road.

The proposal remains at an early stage. Further discussion would provide an opportunity to understand the intended service, management arrangements and local implications. Any subsequent planning application must be assessed on its merits through the usual process.

10. Council finances and scrutiny

As Vice Chair of Cornwall Council's Budget Development and Overview Scrutiny Committee, my priority is effective scrutiny supported by timely, detailed and accessible financial information.

Recent draft correspondence supports a central index of financial reports and sufficient time for members to examine budget assumptions, proposed savings, service impacts and financial risks.

Clear answers, identified responsibilities and a record of follow-up actions are essential to meaningful scrutiny and accountability.

11. Council Tax Support

Recent correspondence and draft public updates address proposed changes to Cornwall's Council Tax Support scheme.

The principal questions are:

- What alternative savings have been considered?
- What would the options mean for low-income working-age households, disabled residents, carers and families?
- How much additional income would actually be collected after allowing for arrears, recovery costs and hardship support?
- What practical protection would be available for residents unable to afford higher payments?

Residents need clear explanations of the proposals and opportunities to contribute to the consultation.

12. Tamar crossings and transport costs

Tamar crossing charges remain a continuing concern for residents and businesses.

Recent correspondence has explored the implications of the Highways (Financing) Bill, including questions about tolling powers, financial transparency and the position of existing crossings.

There is no confirmed outcome on toll abolition. Continued engagement with the local MP and relevant authorities remains necessary.

13. Resident support and confidential casework

Recent correspondence also covers individual care and support concerns, access to advocacy, safeguarding matters and financial hardship associated with serious illness.

These matters require individual consideration and appropriate follow-up with the relevant services. Personal and identifying information has been excluded from this public report.

Recommendation: That Saltash Town Council notes the report and the continuing work described.