

27 October 2021 – Cornwall Council

Responding to this afternoon's budget statement, Cornwall Council leader Cllr Linda Taylor said: "I welcome the chancellor's budget announcements this afternoon as we look to build back better after the pandemic.

"This package of investment is good news for our residents and further evidence of the government's commitment to make good on its promise to 'level up' Cornwall.

"A key part of levelling up was ensuring that Cornwall receives a significant share of the government's Shared Prosperity Fund in line with the Prime Minister's commitment that any funding would match or exceed EU funds.

"So, I am delighted that today the Chancellor has agreed to match that level of funding as a minimum. We have worked hard alongside our MPs to make the case for Cornwall, and it is clear our voices have been heard.

"One of the key priorities of this administration is ensuring that Cornwall is a brilliant place to be a child and grow up. Providing children with the best possible start in life is a key part of this, so news of the chancellor's investment in the 'first 1,001 days' of a child's life and Early Years Services, is welcome.

"Further funding for our Family Hubs and an increase to the Supporting Families Grant will make a real difference to families across Cornwall, and we also welcome more money to help schools and colleges recover from the impact of the pandemic.

"A 50% reduction in business rates for retail, hospitality and leisure sectors – sectors that are so important to our economy here in Cornwall and that have struggled greatly during the pandemic – is good news for Cornish businesses. The chancellor spoke of unleashing the 'dynamism and creativity' of British businesses, and I can think of no better phrase to describe Cornwall's business community. A rate reduction provides them with a welcome boost.

"I am equally delighted that the government has supported our call for funding to improve sea links between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This will provide important transport and economic benefits for both residents and businesses alike.

"Finally, the chancellor's commitment to providing £4.8bn of grant funding to local authorities for social care and other services over three years is both timely and much-needed. It is of particular importance to us here in Cornwall where so many of our residents rely on the services we provide, and we are facing significant financial challenges.

"I have no doubt that more funding will be needed, but this is a positive move and a clear sign that the government recognises the scale of the challenge local authorities are facing."