

Community Area Partnerships

Community Area Partnerships: Briefing

This paper summarises the proposals for the new Community Area Partnerships, agreed by Cornwall Council's Cabinet in February 2023.

A. Overview

- 12 new "Community Area Partnerships" (CAPs) will be introduced across Cornwall from May 2023. They will replace the 19 Community Networks.
- The vision for the CAPs is **"Bringing local organisations and people together to tackle the issues that matter to communities, so that everyone can start, live and age well."**
- Their main benefits will be:
 - They will be better able to take, drive and influence action on priority community issues
 - They will help strengthen connectivity and joint working with communities, being a space where all partners can better coordinate their work in place for the benefit of local people
 - They will have a more consistent approach, while tailoring their work to the community they serve
 - They will have more involvement in decisions about funding
- The CAPs will involve Cornwall Councillors and Town & Parish Councils in each area, working with other organisations that serve our communities, like the Police, health services and voluntary and community sector, and involving and engaging the public.
- Cabinet has agreed a broad framework for the CAPs; detailed arrangements will now be developed and implemented through a co-design process with CAP stakeholders.

B. Key Roles

- The key roles of each CAP are set out below and are designed to ensure they:
 - Are an influential voice for their communities ("Community Voice")
 - Can take effective action to progress community priorities and support communities to take action to help each other ("Community Action")
 - Can help prioritise the use of specific funding allocated to the CAP areas ("Community Funding")

1. Partnership Focus: To provide a space for partners to collaborate and coordinate their work in place and get things done, sharing their skills, assets and learning and working together to build solutions.

2. Town & Parish Councils: To champion and facilitate their work, acting as the "go to": place to get mutual support, platform to share best practice, and pathway to progress and seek funding for projects and ideas.

3. Community Action Plans: To work with communities to agree the top priorities in their area, agree an action plan to progress these and keep communities up to date on progress. Cornwall Council will take CAP priorities into account in its own strategies and share them with partner agencies.

4. Shared Prosperity Fund: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have been awarded £132 million from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. This funding is being used to achieve good growth for communities and businesses. The CAPs will be closely involved in this work, with a particular role on two programmes:

- The **Community Levelling Up Programme**. This [programme](#) aims to help communities develop their place-shaping ambitions. Communities can apply for funding for projects like town centre improvements and neighbourhood infrastructure projects.
- The **Community Capacity Fund**. This [fund](#) aims to help communities develop plans for projects so they are in a good position to secure large scale funds to deliver those projects.

A share of these funds is being allocated to each CAP area. The CAPs will be asked to recommend which projects the funding should be spent on, to best promote good growth and address issues in their areas; Cornwall Council will then make a formal decision, taking this recommendation into account. CAPs will also be able to apply to a central "performance" reserve to bring forward more/larger projects in their areas.

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5. Highway Scheme: The area-based highways scheme, with an annual budget of £1.05m, supports neighbourhood highway improvement schemes that improve highway safety and access. The CAPs will be asked to prioritise unallocated funds from the current scheme, which runs to March 2025, by submitting their views to their Cornwall Councillors who will make a final recommendation to Cornwall Council.

6. Local service delivery, plans and spending: Each CAP will have an opportunity to look at how Cornwall Council and other service providers are delivering services, implementing plans and spending budgets in their area. If a CAP wishes to look at a particular issue in this way, the Council will provide it with information about this, so that the CAP can feed back any comments, concerns and questions. This will help the CAPs support their communities with their priority issues and give the Council and its partners an opportunity to take community views into account when planning their services, budgets and projects.

7. Cornwall Council budget: The Council carries out an annual public consultation on its budget for the forthcoming year. CAPs will be a consultee and will be able to submit comments as part of this process.

8. Local service changes: CAPs will have the opportunity to comment where Cornwall Council is planning an important service change that affects all or a majority of their area. If other service providers are planning a change and the local CAP wishes to comment, the Council will help the CAP liaise with that provider.

9. Cornwall Local Plan: This is Cornwall Council's planning policy framework for the Duchy. It has to be reviewed every five years and contains a section on each community area. When it reviews the Local Plan or related statutory planning policies, the Council will give each CAP the opportunity to input its views.

C. Broad Governance Model

Cabinet has agreed a broad governance model for the CAPs, with key features highlighted below; detailed arrangements will now be developed through a co-design process with CAP stakeholders:

- CAPs will be local forums operating as partnerships
- Membership will comprise the Cornwall Councillors and representatives of Town & Parish Councils in each CAP area, working with other partners. Liaison is taking place with the Police, health and voluntary & community sector to ensure effective links with the CAPs. CAPs will be able to invite partners to be co-opted members, and/or invite them to participate according to the issues in question.
- It is envisaged each CAP will meet 6 times a year. Meetings will be open to the public, with special open forums for Community Action Plan priority setting and progress.
- Cabinet Members will be linked to the CAPs, to help strengthen connectivity between Cornwall Council and the CAPs. Council Leadership Team representatives will also be linked to each CAP.
- A mechanism will be developed for CAPs to jointly request Cornwall Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees to consider carrying out scrutiny of common issues across several CAP areas.
- The CAPs will link in with Annual Conversations with specific client groups, including the Annual Conversation with Children and Young People, facilitating support for the children's rights agenda.
- A key part of the co-design process will be to ensure the detailed arrangements facilitate effective engagement with communities, and that business is manageable and sustainable for all partners.

D. Geography of the CAPs

These [maps](#) show the geography of the CAPs, and the Electoral Divisions and Parishes in each CAP.

For further information, please contact Localism Team via localism@cornwall.gov.uk