



PENZANCE COUNCIL

Annual Report 2024/25



Foreword

We are pleased to present the Penzance Council Annual Report for 2024/25.

This report outlines the work of your council over the past year and highlights our support for local community groups and initiatives.

As part of our Strategic Plan, over the past year Penzance Council has been working towards making our parish community a better place to work and grow, as well as delivering quality local services for local people.

This report provides an overview of our work and accomplishments, including progress on key projects, grant funding to local groups, and a directory of our services and civic & ceremonial events. It also provides information about how your money has been spent over the last year and our agreed budget and plans for the upcoming financial year 2025/26.

We value the feedback of our residents and community groups so encourage you to read this report and provide us with any thoughts or suggestions for how we can better serve all the communities of our parish, which encompasses Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval and Eastern Green.

Our Vision

To maintain and enhance our community for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.

Our Mission

To make the community (of Penzance Council) a better place to live, work and grow.



St Piran's Day Parade, March 2025

How your Council works

Penzance Council operates at the most local level of government across Penzance, Newlyn, Mousehole, Paul, Heamoor, Gulval & Eastern Green

Councillors

We have twenty elected, unpaid Councillors. They represent the four wards in the Penzance Parish:

- Heamoor & Gulval
- Newlyn & Mousehole
- Penzance East
- Penzance Promenade

Councillors are elected to represent your views, address your concerns, and make decisions on the future of your town and village communities. Together, these twenty Councillors form Penzance Council.

They also represent you on outside committees and community groups including, but not limited to: [GOFA](#), [Plastic Free Penzance](#), [Town Twinning Associations](#), [Penzance & District Tourism Assoc](#), [Penzance Neighbourhood Plan](#), [Penwith 50+ Forum](#), [The Centre, Newlyn](#), and the [Solomon Browne Memorial Hall](#).

Town Clerk

Town Clerks are Council's senior officials known as the 'Proper Officer'. Their main role is to advise the Council, ensure decisions are lawful and to implement those decisions. They also work closely with community partners and stakeholders on projects within the Parish.

At the start of 2025, the Town Clerk of Penzance Council won a prestigious national award in recognition of his dedication to the local community. At the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Star Council Awards held at the House of Lords on 25 February, James Hardy was announced as Town Clerk of the Year 2024.



James Hardy was named Town Clerk of the Year 2024 in the Star Council Awards.

The Council

The Full Council meets at least six times a year to take major decisions and oversee activities of the Council.

The Full Council will also consider recommendations from its four standing Committees:

- Arts & Culture
- Finance & General Purposes
- Leisure & Amenities
- Planning

There is a Personnel Committee, as well as a Climate Emergency Sub-Committee.

Meetings

Agendas are published online and on our noticeboards at least three clear working days before a meeting is due to take place.

The press and public are welcome to attend all Committee and Full Council meetings, and they have the opportunity to ask questions or comment on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.

The minutes for Committee and Council meetings are published once they have been approved and [can be viewed on our website](#).

The Calendar of Meetings for the year is also available to view on the Council's website and on the main noticeboard opposite St John's Hall.

Partnerships

Penzance Council continues to play a key role in a number of Partnerships, all working across Penzance to not only face immediate challenges but to also look forward and deliver positive change for the town and community.

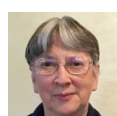


Penzance Council works very closely with the [Penzance Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#) and is also represented on the [Penzance Town Deal Board](#), [Penzance Regeneration Company Board](#), and [Safer Penzance](#).

2024/25 Councillors

Listed here are the 20 members of Penzance Council in place at the end of the financial year 2024/25, before the May Local Elections.

Penzance East Ward



Councillor Joan Beveridge

Email: joan.beveridge@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Andy Law

Email: andrew.law@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jonathan How

Email: jonathan.how@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Zach Lawlor

Email: zach.lawlor@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jan Power

Email: jan.power@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Nadine Tonner

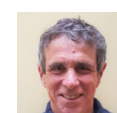
Email: nadine.tonner@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Heamoor & Gulval Ward



Councillor Bonnie Jackson

Email: bonnie.jackson@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Stephen Reynolds (Mayor)

Email: stephen.reynolds@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Richard Sorrell

Email: richard.sorrell@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Penzance Promenade Ward



Councillor Nicole Broadhurst

Email: nicole.broadhurst@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Simon Elliott

Email: simon.elliott@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Will Elliott (Deputy Mayor)

Email: will.elliott@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jim McKenna

Email: cllr.jim.mckenna@cornwall.gov.uk



Councillor Nigel Pengelly

Email: nigel.pengelly@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Penny Young

Email: penny.young@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Newlyn & Mousehole Ward



Councillor Penny Osborne

Email: penny.osborne@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Sue Bosworth

Email: sue.bosworth@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Simon Reed

Email: simon.reed@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Nigel Davis

Email: nigel.davis@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Thalia Marrington

Email: cllr.thalia.marrington@cornwall.gov.uk

Current Councillors

Listed here are the 20 members of Penzance Council who took their seats on 6 May 2025 following the Local Elections.

Penzance East Ward



Councillor Jane Pugh

Email: jane.pugh@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Andy Law

Email: andrew.law@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jonathan How

Email: jonathan.how@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Mark Wilson

Email: mark.wilson@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jan Power

Email: jan.power@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Simon Reed

Email: simon.reed@penzance-tc.gov.uk

Heamoor & Gulval Ward



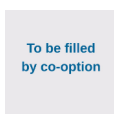
Councillor Bonnie Jackson

Email: bonnie.jackson@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Stephen Reynolds (Mayor)

Email: stephen.reynolds@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Vacancy

To be filled by co-option on 2nd June 2025

Penzance Promenade Ward



Councillor Nicole Broadhurst

Email: nicole.broadhurst@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Nina Martin

Email: nina.martin@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Peter Lapin

Email: peter.lapin@penzance-tc.gov.uk



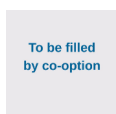
Councillor Jim McKenna

Email: cllr.jim.mckenna@cornwall.gov.uk



Councillor Penny Young

Email: penny.young@penzance-tc.gov.uk



Vacancy

To be filled by co-option on 2nd June 2025

Newlyn & Mousehole Ward



Councillor Penny Osborne

Email: penny.osborne@penzance-tc.gov.uk



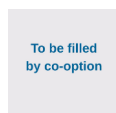
Councillor Paul Trevail

Email: paul.trevail@penzance-tc.gov.uk



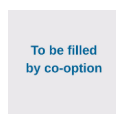
Councillor Thalia Marrington

Email: cllr.thalia.marrington@cornwall.gov.uk



Vacancy

To be filled by co-option on 2nd June 2025



Vacancy

To be filled by co-option on 2nd June 2025

Committees

Finance & General Purposes

The Finance & General Purposes Committee has responsibility for overseeing the financial affairs of Penzance Council and all aspects of Corporate Governance.

The Committee also considers grant applications from local community groups and charities and strategic funding for key community partners. In the financial year 2024/25 a total of £218,579 of funding was awarded to 25 local organisations.

Due to an unprecedented demand on grant applications in 2024, the total grant funding budget was allocated before the end of the financial year. To address this, the grant funding budget has been increased for 2025/2026, making more grants available for community organisations.

At the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 16 December 2024, the proposed budget for 2025/26 was recommended for approval by Full Council.

With plans to spend almost £2.5 million in the parish from 1 April 2025, Penzance Council voted to increase the precept, in real terms, by £5.82 a year for a Band D property. This represents an annual increase of 1.8% for every household.

80% of households in the Penzance Parish are Bands A-C, which means the vast majority of households will see a real-terms increase of £5.18 per year or less, working out as an extra 10p a week or less.

£218,579

of funding was awarded to
25 local organisations



CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL
MALE CHORAL festival



Penzance
Rotary



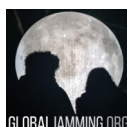
music Ability
community interest company



YMCA CORNWALL
MONTOL
winter solstice in penzance



SUSTAINABLE
PENZANCE



Organisers of Treneere Christmas Lights Corinne Brown, Debbie Sims and Natisha Lobb - December 2024.

Arts & Culture

The Arts & Culture Committee brings together all the arts and cultural projects that Penzance Council delivers, either directly or through a third party. This includes:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Penlee Open Air Theatre
- Town Christmas Lights
- Summer Town Banners & Promenade Flags
- Local festivals, including Golowan

Town Banners and Promenade Flags

In 2024, the Arts & Culture Committee approved contracts for 60 new town banners, as well as 18 new promenade flags with a design theme centered on local marine life.

Golowan Festival 2024

Celebrating its 34th year, the theme for the 2024 Golowan Festival was 'Together, We Shine' to "celebrate all that is brilliant and inspirational – both past and present – in our wonderful community here in West Cornwall."

Mazey Day is the highlight of Golowan, the town's 10-day festival of arts, performances, culture and parades, attracting tens of thousands of people to fill the streets of Penzance.

Providing a total of **£33,500** in funding, Penzance Council was proud to once again support Golowan Festival.



Mazey Day - June 2024. Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live



Penlee House celebrates its 75th birthday in June 2024. Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Having opened as the District Museum in 1949, Penlee House celebrated its 75th birthday in 2024. Some key achievements at the gallery over the last year include:

- **The hard work of volunteers** at Penlee House Gallery & Museum was recognised with a prestigious award announced by the British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust. The 'Volunteers for Museum Learning' award celebrates achievements of museum volunteers across the UK and forms part of a programme of awards presented by the Marsh Charitable Trust in the fields of science, ecology, conservation, heritage, literature and volunteering.
- **Penlee House put on three major exhibitions** over the last year: 'The Exceptional Harold Harvey' showcased the work of one artist using both works from the Penlee House collection and borrowed works. 'Flora: 150 Years of Environmental Change in Cornwall – curated by Kurt Jackson' and 'The Shape of Things: Our Place in a Changing Climate', both used works from Penlee House's collection to explore the theme of environmental change.
- **'Flora' was awarded 'Exhibition of the Year'** for large venues at the Cornwall Heritage Awards in March 2025. Penlee House's tour guides were 'Highly Commended' in the category of Heritage Heroes at Cornwall Heritage Awards, which acknowledges the fantastic work they do in bringing exhibitions to life for visitors, through their tours.
- **The Learning Team worked with more than 30 different community groups and schools**, in collaboration with local artists, to produce works inspired by historic works in the Penlee House collection on the theme of climate change, which formed the 'Shape of Things: Our Place in a Changing Climate' exhibition. In addition, talks and film showings on this theme have been delivered as part of the wider engagement programme.

Leisure & Amenities

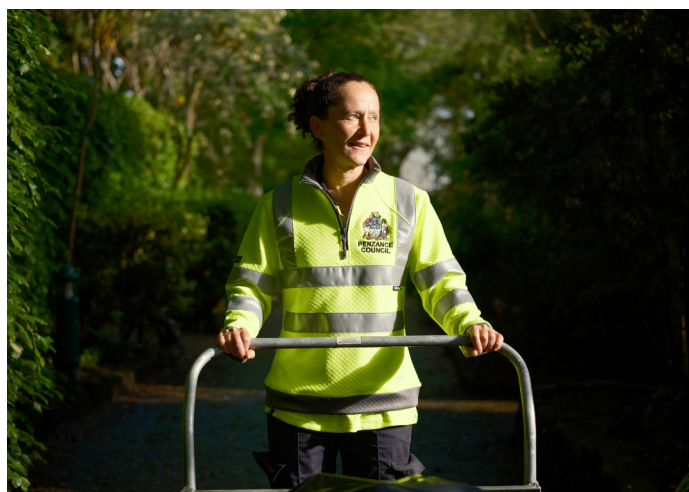
The Leisure & Amenities Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of Penzance Council assets, as well as delivering a number of key services across the whole parish via a combination of the small 'in house' team and management of locally contracted services.

The Committee is also responsible for the delivery of projects and improvement works across the open spaces and facilities owned and managed by Penzance Council.

A full list of our services is [available on our website](#).

Major projects this year:

- Promenade and Town Banner Projects.
- Town-wide seasonal watering programme.
- Parish-wide weed management programme.
- Hosting the inaugural Penzance Food Festival in Penlee Park.
- Christmas Tree and Suspended Lights Display 2024.
- Penlee Park Play Area re-fencing.



Assistant Gardener Tracy emptying the bins early in the morning in Penlee Park.

Whilst the initial delivery of these important projects often receives the most attention, the Leisure and Amenities Committee and small in-house team of staff take pride in the high standards of maintenance and upkeep that we apply to our sites after projects have been completed. This means that they remain in better condition for longer for parish residents and visitors to the area.

Wellfields Car Park Digital Payment

Following a resolution by the Leisure and Amenities Committee in 2024 to improve the flexibility and ease of use of Wellfields Car Park, Penzance Council explored options for digital payment of car parking tickets. One of the requirements from the committee was to find a system that did not require the download of an additional app.

A provider was sourced who utilised a system using QR codes avoiding the need for bespoke applications to be downloaded. Penzance Councillors also wanted to continue to support users of the car park to continue to pay by cash should they wish to do so.

After establishing these requirements, two new coin payment parking machines were purchased for the car park as well as launching the digital payment option.

Feedback has been positive to date, with some users switching to the new digital payment options and others choosing to stay with the physical cash purchases. Being able to offer both physical and digital payment options for Wellfields Car Park, brings us in line with the other, Cornwall Council run car parks across the parish.

Princess May Recreation Ground

Princess May Recreation Ground transferred from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council in 2024. The transfer of this site concluded the current phase of devolution items from Cornwall Council to Penzance Council. The large site is a well-used open green space in the heart of Penzance, offering open spaces, a skate bowl, multi-use sports courts, and a children's play area.

Princess May Recreation CIC, together with Penzance Council, are aiming to establish what the local community wants to see in terms of enhancements to the space in the future. A consultation with the community is planned in order to capture users' and residents' aspirations for the site.

The CIC are already working hard to deliver some day-to-day maintenance and upkeep tasks at the site, and alongside the work carried out by Penzance Council staff and a team of contractors, improvements across the space are already visible.



From left to right: Cornwall Councillor Tim Dwelly, Maggie, Simone & Betty from Whole Again Communities CIC; the late Cllr Melville Durrant; James Hardy (Town Clerk); Brian Tempest (Princess May Recreation CIC); Jennie Massey (Treneere Grows); Penzance Cllr Nadine Tonner; Cllr Stephen Reynolds (Mayor of Penzance); Caroline Peers (Humphry Davy School Governor); Nicky Mendham (Princess May Recreation CIC); Kirstie Oliver (Deputy Head of Humphry Davy School); Terry Binns (Chair of Governors, Humphry Davy School).

Remembering Melville Durrant

Sadly, with the tragic passing of Cllr Melville Durrant in 2024, we lost a true community champion who had been involved in the improvement of Princess May Recreation Ground for decades.

Princess May Recreation CIC are inviting everyone to The Melville Durrant Memorial and Community Day on Saturday 7 June 2025, to celebrate the local hero and plan how to build on the work of Melville for the future of the Rec.

Planning

Statutory Consultee

Penzance Council is a statutory consultee for all Penzance Parish planning applications.

This means that Cornwall Council, who make the final decisions on all applications, are legally required to consult with Penzance Council before a decision is made on applications within the Parish.

The Planning Committee makes comments on applications based on submitted plans, public comments on proposals, and reports provided by other departments and outside bodies where appropriate eg. the Strategic Historic Environment Service, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

Penzance Council does **not** make the final decision on planning applications – these are made by Cornwall Council.

Our Meetings

Our Planning Committee meets on Wednesdays every three weeks. They meet to discuss planning applications submitted within the Penzance Parish.

Meeting agendas, and a list of planning applications to be considered, are published three clear working days in advance. They are posted on our public noticeboards, on [our website](#), and on our social media channels.

All members of the public are welcome to attend – you have the opportunity to comment on specific planning applications at the start of the meeting.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework

Penzance Council adopted the revised National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024. The framework sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.



The sun sets behind the iconic dome of Market House during restoration works. Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live

Penzance Neighbourhood Plan

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a way for communities to set a vision for the future of their Parish, Town or Village embedded in the Local Authority's planning framework in the form of planning policies.

If the Plan is approved by residents and Cornwall Council, all future developments requiring planning permission must abide by its policies along with the [Cornwall Local Plan](#).

What is in the Penzance Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies on housing, local green spaces, characters, community facilities, transport, economy, parking and sustainability.

Who drafted the Plan?

The Plan was drafted by community representatives from across the parish, alongside Town Councillors and an independent Chartered Town Planner, using the results of several public consultations.

What next?

As [set out in legislation](#), following an initial consultation, an Independent Examiner was appointed by Cornwall Council to examine the Penzance Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Final Examiner's Report, returned at the end of 2024, found that the Penzance Neighbourhood Development Plan can, subject to the recommended modifications, proceed to Referendum.

How money was spent in 2024/25

Arts, Culture & Heritage

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee House
- Golowan
- Christmas Lights
- Town banners
- Civic & Community events

£938,308

estimated

Parks, Play & Open Spaces

Including, but not limited to:

- Princess May Recreation Ground
- Penlee Park
- Alexandra Play & Tennis Courts
- Heamoor Old School Field
- Foxes Lane Park, Mousehole
- Wherrytown Skatepark
- 190 allotment plots (approx)

£778,635

Grants

- General Grants
- Climate Emergency Grant
- Social Action Grants
- Youth Work & Activities

£71,468

Community

Including, but not limited to:

- Pengarth Day Centre
- ASB Officer
- 19 CCTV Cameras
- 7 Public Toilets
- 12 Community Toilets
- Water fountain (Wherrytown)
- Penzance Football Club
- Education & family workshops (at Penlee House)

£367,113

estimated

Grant funding

We are committed to helping community organisations who work to help local people in the Parish of Penzance - to achieve this, we provide grant funding.

Priority is given to Penzance-based organisations. However, the Council will consider grants to organisations not based in Penzance where they can show they are directly working with, or on behalf of, Penzance Parish residents.



Growing Links Street Food Project manager Ally Katkowski. - November 2024

Due to an unprecedented demand on grant applications in 2024, the total grant funding budget was allocated before the end of the financial year. To address this, the grant funding budget has been increased for 2025/2026, making more grants available for community organisations.

To ensure that grant funding is available throughout the financial year, defined grant windows have been introduced for 2025/2026.

Organisations can only apply for grants within one of the defined grant windows.

There are four grant windows during the financial year, each of which are open for one month and close six weeks before the scheduled Finance & General Purposes Meeting where applications will be considered.

More information on how to apply for a grant can be found on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/grants



Grant funded by
PENZANCE COUNCIL

**£71,468 of
grant funding
awarded***

2024/25 Grant Recipients	Amount
Cornwall International Male Choral Festival	£500
Rotary Club of Penzance	£900
Newlyn Regeneration	£10,000
Sea Salts and Sail	£1,500
Penzance Community Flora Group	£2,066
Paul Cricket Club	£10,000
MusicAbility CIC	£2,520
St. Piran in Penwith	£2,956
Quiet Connections CIC	£254
Treneere Team Spirit	£1,500
Heamoor CIO	£500
Penzance Studios	£998
Newlyn Harbour Lights	£6,000
Montol Festival CIC	£5,000
Mounts Bay Academy	£1,000
YMCA Cornwall	£5,000
Hypatia Trust	£3,000
Global Jamming	£960
Growing Links	£8,313.97
Golowan Youth Stage	£8,500
Total:	£71,468*

*rounded to nearest pound

Community Partners

Last year we provided a total of £147,111 strategic funding to six organisations based in Penzance who provide essential services, health, and cultural events for our residents

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer - £30,111

In February 2019, Penzance Council agreed to jointly fund a dedicated ASB Officer based in Penzance. The role was initially a 12 month pilot however, due to the role's success, Penzance Council extended the agreement and continues to fund 80% of the role's costs - in the last year this has been **£30,111**.

In the last 12 months, the ASB Officer has continued to balance building rapport and relationships with some very complex, vulnerable and, at times, chaotic street drinkers and street homeless. They have supported them towards appropriate services and have enforced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) by removing their alcohol, issuing warnings and building case files for court proceedings where necessary.

They have also actively engaged with businesses across the town, as well as members of the public, providing advice, reassurance and encouraging people to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.

You can [follow the Penzance ASB Officer on Facebook](#) for updates on their patrols and other pop-up events in the town.

ASB incidents should be reported directly to Devon and Cornwall Police by calling 101 or online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Devon & Cornwall Police](#)

Sustainable Penzance - £20,000

Sustainable Penzance is an extension of the work started by Plastic Free Penzance, to connect the town to a bigger vision of what a sustainable community can look like.

As well as working collaboratively with businesses and community groups, the organisation also runs a Schools Symposium empowering local children and young people to contribute to shaping their own futures in the community,

In 2024/25, Penzance Council provided £20,000 of strategic funding for Sustainable Penzance to deliver activity identified within a service level agreement. This funding enabled Sustainable Penzance to further develop community, business, youth and school engagement activity through both enhanced digital and face to face services, targeting hard to reach communities of place and interest across the Parish.

The work of Sustainable Penzance is closely aligned to the Council's Strategic Plan and contributes to the delivery of our Climate Emergency Action Plan.



The Golowan Band playing the 11am parade on Mazey Day, 2024. Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live

Golowan Festival CIC - £33,500

Golowan is the town's midsummer festival and the feast of our Patron Saint - St John the Baptist. The Cornish word 'Golowan' translates as 'Feast of John'. The festival traces its roots back to the vibrant traditions and customs observed in the town during the 19th century.

The modern-day festival was revived in 1991 by Alverton School, members of Kneehigh Theatre, Penwith Peninsula Project and Penzance Council. The Council now supports Golowan Festival CIC to deliver a massive range of events.

Golowan is a treasured part of the modern-day culture and community spirit of Penzance and has felt extra special, and needed in the post pandemic years.

Last year Penzance Council provided a total of **£33,500** in funding which included **£25,000** for the main festival, in addition to **£8,500** for the Golowan Youth Expo.

In November 2024, following a tendering process, Penzance Council awarded the contract to deliver Golowan Festival from 2025 – 2027 to the Golowan Festival Community Interest Company, who will do so in line with a detailed service level agreement.

Jubilee Pool - £40,000

We have financially supported Jubilee Pool since its refurbishment in 2017 following the 2014 storms.

In the last financial year we have provided a total of **£40,000** funding. The breakdown of this funding was:

- **£10,000** for a Free Under 16s swim scheme
- **£30,000** towards winter maintenance and storm damage

Our funding also ensures a 20% discounted entry for all residents who live the Penzance Parish area (proof of address required).



Free Under 16s Swim Scheme at Jubilee Pool. Image: Greg Martin / Cornwall Live

Free Under 16s Swim Scheme

Jubilee Pool is an amazing and unique asset and we are committed to ensuring that young people from the Penzance Parish should have the chance to appreciate and enjoy it, just as generations have done before them.

In these hard economic times, we know that the price of taking children to the pool is a real barrier for many families: 27% of children in the Penzance area live in low-income households. Our Councillors felt it would be unjust if local children are denied the chance to connect with our local area and access such an iconic amenity simply because it is too expensive. The scheme was launched in summer 2023 as a pilot and has been very successful since then.

Pengarth Day Centre - £20,000

Originally opened in 1968, Pengarth Day Centre has become a much-loved resource and important daily care facility, for the senior community of West Cornwall.

They operate early intervention to reduce the number of older people being admitted to hospital in the first instance as well as providing a 4-week 'discharge from hospital' programme where they can support people with meal deliveries and visits to the day centre. After the four weeks, many people can manage cooking for themselves again and the meal deliveries have given them the opportunity to get them back on their feet.

As well as front-line services support, Pengarth also offer a wide range of activities and therapies at the centre seven days a week including: armchair exercises, inter-generational activities with parents and their children under five, art projects, tea parties, bingo, a singing group, therapy dog sessions, hairdressing, and chiropody.

Last year, Penzance Council provided **£20,000** strategic funding to ensure this valuable partner can continue to deliver this essential community service.

PZN Youth CIC - £10,000

Penzance and Newlyn Youth Project have established an open-door facility (from the former Town Council Office Building), providing meaningful, enriching activities for young people who may be at risk of exploitation if out on the streets or suffering poor mental health if isolated in their homes.

The volume of young people regularly attending reinforces the need for continuation and positive feedback from parents state that the provision is making a real difference to the lives of young people. The Youth Project also supports several young people who did not cope in mainstream schooling and were incredibly isolated who now regularly attend sessions, have formed close friendships and have successfully re-integrated into a mainstream activity.

In November 2024, Penzance Council approved a detailed service level agreement with Penzance and Newlyn Youth Project, which is in place for 2025/26.



Our Services

We provide a wide range of services to the local community and the large number of tourists who visit the town every year

Allotments

We currently manage approximately 190 [allotment plots](#) across eight sites in the parish.

Plots are available to anyone who lives in the Parish area of Penzance (proof of residency required). Due to their popularity, there is a long waiting list – when a plot becomes available, we will split it in two where we can to help reduce the waiting times.

Our teams work hard to maintain standards and make improvements across all of our sites, which include:

- Alverton
- Crankan
- Gulval
- Lescudjack
- Leskinnick
- Love Lane
- Mennaye
- Trannack

The current annual cost is between £20 – £32 depending on the size of the plot.



The new West Cornwall CCTV Partnership is officially launched in January 2025 by St Ives Town Council, Penzance Council and Hayle Town Council.



Community Safety

CCTV

Protecting public spaces and making our residents feel safe is very important to us. We own and maintain 19 CCTV cameras throughout the town.

Following Cornwall Fire and Rescue's decision to terminate the town CCTV monitoring contract at Tolvaddon in its current form, Penzance Council entered into a new partnership with St Ives and Hayle Town Councils to set up and launch a CCTV monitoring service at a single control centre in St Ives.

Launched at the start of 2025, the new system builds on existing infrastructure and arrangements, whilst offering an improved monitoring service and closer working with the local police sector.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer

We took decisive action to secure the future of the town's ASB Officer after Cornwall Council reported it was unable to continue to provide the same level of funding for the post in 2019 – we now cover 80% of the costs for the post. You can find more information about the role on page 10 of this report.

Safer Penzance

Under the umbrella of Safer Cornwall, we work in partnership with Safer Penzance to tackle the impacts of crime, alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour in our community.

Christmas Lights

Working closely with Penzance BID, in 2024 we were responsible for the hire, installation, and maintenance of the suspended Christmas lights throughout Penzance town centre and the sourcing and lighting of the Christmas tree in front of Market House.

We would like to thank local businesses and residents in Penzance for their continued support, which makes the lights in town possible each year.

In 2024 we also provided grants to Heamoor CIO (£500), Treneere Team Spirit (£1,500) and Newlyn Harbour Lights (£6,000) to support their Christmas Light displays.



The 2024 Christmas Light Switch On in front of the Christmas Tree on Market Jew Street.

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

[Penlee House Gallery & Museum](#) is a unique cultural venue, open to the whole community, with an important collection of paintings by the internationally- renowned Newlyn School and Lamorna artists, as well as a large collection of artefacts celebrating the archaeological and social history of West Cornwall.

Admission is free for everyone who lives within the Parish of Penzance. Please bring along proof of address to receive your pass.

PENLEE HOUSE
— — — — —
Gallery & Museum



Penzance Food Festival 2024 held in Penlee Park. Image: Danny North

Penlee Park

Our Leisure and Amenities Team are based in [Penlee Park](#) – a popular public garden in the heart of the town.

The park offers a range of open spaces and wooded areas to explore, with the addition of an accessible play park, sensory garden and a Memorial Garden for quiet contemplation. The park is also home to Penlee House Gallery & Museum, [Penlee Open Air Theatre](#) and [Penzance Tennis Club](#).

Building on the success of the inaugural Penzance Food Festival in 2024, Penzance Council have once again approved the use of Penlee Park for the festival's return in September 2025.

Penlee Park will also host the new Community and Family Area during Golowan Festival 2025, offering engaging activities and entertainment for all ages.

Toilets

Public Toilets

We operate 7 Public Toilets in and around Penzance Town Centre and at Newlyn Harbour. We continue to receive regular positive feedback regarding the cleanliness and condition of the facilities that we provide.

This year we've continued to make further improvements to the hand washing facilities as part of a rolling upgrading and maintenance programme.

You can find out more about the public toilets, where they are and their opening times on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/public-toilets

Community Toilet Scheme

We were one of the first local councils to introduce a 'Community Toilet Scheme' to boost our existing public toilet services. The scheme provides funding to local businesses to enable them to open their toilet facilities to the public to use free of charge.

12 businesses across Penzance, Newlyn and Heamoor are currently part of our scheme. All the businesses taking part receive funding from Penzance Council to offer this service, so you don't need to spend a penny!

Find out more about community toilets on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/community-toilet-scheme/

Wellfields Car Park

We own and manage Wellfields Car Park (next to Penlee Park). It provides good value long-stay parking for people working in and visiting Penzance. The current price for a 24-hour ticket is £2.50 (subject to annual review). The car park has 141 spaces, including 4 spaces for Blue Badge Holders.

We also operate a Quarterly Parking Permit Scheme to provide further cost savings to those who use the car park regularly. All income from the car park is used to maintain the car park itself. You can find out more information on our website: www.penzance-tc.gov.uk/wellfields-car-park

Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza

Working closely with key members of the skate community, we manage and maintain the [Wherrytown Skateboard Plaza](#). The Plaza is open to all abilities of bikers, skaters and scooters all year round.

The cleanliness and upkeep of the facility is a credit to the local skate community who promote ownership and responsibility amongst users to ensure it remains in good condition.

An earmarked reserve for the Plaza was established in 2020 to help fund future improvement projects with the support of key users of the site.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Railway Station
- Post Office
- Car Park
- Bus Station
- Tourist Information
- Public Toilet

PENZANCE COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME
FREE PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Penzance Council's community toilet scheme has been developed to provide clean, publicly accessible facilities with extensive opening hours at various locations.

FREE COMMUNITY TOILETS HERE
LOOK OUT FOR THIS SIGN IN SHOPS

Please check our website for any changes to Scheme participants

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

- 1 THE LONGBOAT INN
Market Jew Street
- 2 POPPIES
Belgrave Street
- 3 EXCHANGE GALLERY
Princes Street
- 4 SUBWAY
Causewayhead
- 5 WAVES CAFE BAR
Causewayhead
- 6 PENLEE HOUSE
Morrab Road
- 7 THE DOLPHIN TAVERN
Quay Street
- 8 THE LUGGER
The Promenade
- 9 NEWLYN GALLERY
New Road, Newlyn
- 10 DUKE STREET CAFE
6 Duke Street, Newlyn
- 11 THE SWORDFISH INN
The Strand, Newlyn
- 12 SPORTSMANS ARMS
Boltho Road, Heamoor

SCALE
0m 100m

PENZANCE COUNCIL
www.penzance-tc.gov.uk

Information correct at the time of printing - February 2025

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Foxes Lane Play Park, Mousehole

We took on Foxes Lane Play Park in Mousehole from Cornwall Council in 2021 and have since carried out a refurbishment project to improve the facilities for families in the village.

In the past year, our teams have continued with a rolling maintenance and cleaning programme to keep the space clean, safe and welcoming for children and families.

Heamoor Old School Field

Penzance Council owns and manages the [Old School Field in Heamoor](#) (located next to the former primary school on Madron Road).

Over the last few years we have carried out lots of improvement works to make the field an accessible community space for all residents to enjoy. We have installed a community noticeboard, benches, swings, bins and new hard surface path.

We also have a brilliant group of local volunteers known as the HGVs (the Heamoor Garden Volunteers) who help us to maintain the flower beds at the field!



Head Gardener, Tristan, tidying Foxes Lane Play Park - February 2025.



Heamoor Old School Field.

Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts

Penzance Council took on [Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts](#) from Cornwall Council in the summer of 2021 and have carried out a full refurbishment of both.

We continue to build on the site improvements to keep both areas well maintained, including the recent replacement of all the wooden planter seating in Alexandra Play Park, and the planned repainting of the tennis courts surface ahead of summer 2025.

Both facilities are free for everyone to use all year round.

Princess May Recreation Ground

Located in the heart of Penzance, Princess May Recreation Ground is a well-used open green space offering open spaces, a skate bowl, multi-use sports courts, as well as a children's play area.



Maintenance Officer Andy replacing wooden planter seating at Alexandra Play Park

Penzance Jewish Cemetery

Penzance Council look after the Grade II listed Penzance Jewish Cemetery, located between Leskinnick Terrace and Mount Street.

It was established in 1740 and is one of the best-preserved eighteenth century Jewish cemeteries in the UK, outside of London.

The Cemetery is Grade II listed. This means that the cemetery has been recognised by Historic England as having special architectural and historic interest. The listing also brings the cemetery under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.

We supervise maintenance works to ensure that the site's heritage is protected.

Access to the Jewish Cemetery is strictly by appointment only - please [contact the Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery](#).



Pavement Weeding

Our Leisure & Amenities Team carry out weeding on over 120km of pavements across the whole parish!

As part of [our Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), Penzance Council resolved to undertake a chemical-free weed management program. This means no spraying of chemicals on parish pavements or sites owned or managed by Penzance Council.

Instead, Penzance Council staff use battery-powered tools to cut the weeds off as close to ground level as possible.

Whilst this method does mean a greater number of weeds are visible across the parish, the majority of feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive in favour of the Councils' efforts to find and implement a non chemical-based management programme.



Sir Humphry Davy Statue is cleaned - October 2024

Memorial maintenance

We look after six memorials across the parish, including:

- Eileen McGrigor Memorial, Newlyn
- Fisherman Memorial, Newlyn Green
- Humphry Davy Statue, Market Jew Street
- Mousehole War Memorial
- Newlyn War Memorial
- Penzance War Memorial, Battery Rocks



Contracted by Penzance Council who maintain the memorials, Sam Williams from Crystal Clear Professional Cleaning Ltd cleans the war memorial at Battery Rocks in Penzance in October 2024, ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

Events

Our Corporate Service Team organise a wide range of civic and ceremonial events within the community each year

May 2024 - Mayor Choosing & Community Awards



From left to right: Mayor's Sea Cadet 2024-25 Able Cadet Autumn Rhodes-McClean, Petty Officer Juliette Scanlan, Flight Lieutenant Simon Jose, Citizen of the year 2024 Constance Morris, the Mayor of Penzance Cllr Stephen Reynolds, Mayor's Young Artist 2024-25 Zac Henshall, Humphry Davy Prize Winner Jacob Allan, Retiring Police Cadet Edward Willets, Town Clerk James Hardy.



From left to right: Cllr Bonnie Jackson (Civic Deputy), Cllr Stephen Reynolds (Mayor of Penzance), Cllr Will Elliott (Deputy Mayor of Penzance), Cllr Penny Young (Civic Deputy).

June 2024 - D-Day 80th Anniversary



The official D-Day Anniversary Proclamation was read at the Battery Rocks War Memorial



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds and Town Crier Phil Northcott at the Newlyn War Memorial

June 2024 - St John's Feast

Each year, we work closely with Golowan Festival CIC to organise the Civic Parade and Church Service for St John's Feast.

St John is the patron saint of Penzance and has been incorporated into the Golowan Festival since its revival in 1991.

The word 'Golowan' is made up of two Cornish/Kernewek words: Gool Jowan. Gool means feast/festival and Jowan is the Cornish name for John - so Golowan means the Feast of St John!

September 2024 - HMS Penzance



From left to right: ETWE Callum Ward, Lt Owen Leo Moore, Lieutenant Commander Trevor Brookes, Commodore Jamie Miller CBE DL, Cllr Simon Reed (Mace Bearer), Cllr Stephen Reynolds (Mayor of Penzance), Talan Richards (Mace Bearer), James Hardy (Town Clerk), Cllr Joan Beveridge, Cllr Nadine Tonner, Cllr Nicole Broadhurst, Cllr Penny Osborne.

November 2024 - Remembrance Sunday



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds lays a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday Service 2024

December 2024 - Mayor's Christmas Card Contest



Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds chooses a winner from the 2024 Christmas Card Contest entries.



Christmas Card Contest winner 10-year-old Harry Wade is invited to switch on the Penzance Christmas Lights with Mayor of Penzance Stephen Reynolds and Town Crier Phil Northcott.

Looking forward

The 2025/26 budget

At the Full Council meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025, Councillors agreed a budget for 2025/26 and set out plans to spend almost £2.5 million in the parish from 1 April 2025.

Penzance Council voted to increase the precept, in real terms, by £5.82 a year for a Band D property. This represents an annual increase of 1.8% for every household.

Cornwall Council will be charging an additional 100% Council Tax premium on second homes from 1 April 2025. There are approximately 434 'Band D' equivalent second homes across the wards of Penzance Council for the 25/26 financial year that will be paying a 100% additional premium on their Council Tax bill. This increases the tax base for the Parish, bringing the precept increase down to 1.8%.

Community

Including, but not limited to:

- ASB Caseworker
- Street Marshals
- Improved CCTV monitoring
- 7 Public Toilets
- 12 Community Toilets
- Education & Family Workshops
(at Penlee House)

£376,481
estimated

Grants

Including, but not limited to:

- General Grants
- Jubilee Pool
- PZ & Newlyn Youth CIC
- Pengarth Day Centre
- Sustainable Penzance

£134,200

Parks, Play & Open Spaces

Including, but not limited to:

- Princess May Recreation Ground
- Alexandra Play Park & Tennis Courts
- Penlee Park
- Heamoor Old School Field
- Foxes Lane Park, Mousehole
- Wherrytown Skatepark
- 190 Allotment plots (approx)

£634,625
estimated

Culture & Events

Including, but not limited to:

- Penlee House Gallery & Museum
- Golowan Festival
- Penlee Coach House
- Christmas Lights
- Town Flags & Promenade Banners
- Cultural Strategy
- Civic & Community Events

£1,022,257
estimated

Newlyn fishing boats at sunrise - January 2025

Penzance Council's element of residents' Council Tax Bill from 1 April 2025 is:

Council Tax Bands	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Annual Total	£218.02	£254.35	£290.69	£327.03	£399.70	£472.37	£545.04	£654.05
Monthly Total	£18.17	£21.20	£24.22	£27.25	£33.30	£39.36	£45.42	£54.50

(80% of households in the parish are Council Tax Band A-C)

Over the coming year, we hope to build on our success and improve our parish for all of our residents

Community events

The cultural life of our parish is very important and we are committed to promoting and supporting its distinct cultural heritage and identity now and into the future.

Over the coming year we will continue to organise our own community events and financially support the many community groups and organisations who put on events for our residents to enjoy.

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Exhibitions

This summer, the new exhibition **Birds: The art of Cornwall's birdlife** explores how artists working in Cornwall from the 1870s to the present have been inspired by birds.

Featuring paintings by artists such as Charles Simpson, Frank Heath, John Wells and Bryan Wynter; rarely-seen victorian engravings and taxidermy as well as contemporary photography and video, the exhibition will explore the art of birds and their habitats through the eyes of artists working in Cornwall over the past three centuries.

This will be followed in the winter by an exhibition featuring the work of **Lamorna Birch and Biddy Picard**, and **Human Interest: Penhaul Photography and Penlee Portraits** in spring 2026.



From the upcoming exhibition *Birds: The art of Cornwall's birdlife* - Penlee House Gallery and Museum

Accessibility

Two access audits have been undertaken so Penlee House Gallery & Museum can better understand what adaptations they may be able to make to support a diverse audience.

Redevelopment of the Coach House

Progress continues with the redevelopment of the Coach House to provide a restaurant/café, to supplement a smaller café at the Gallery. Penzance Council has been awarded funding of £250,000 from the Penzance Town Deal Enterprise Fund to support this renovation.

The new café will offer increased opening hours and more covers, providing vital income generation to the Gallery. Following a successful tendering process, work is due to begin on the renovation in summer 2025.



Funded by
UK Government



CORNWALL
COUNCIL
one and all - oen hag oll



Penzance
TOWN FUND

The Coach House in Penlee Park - March 2025.

Next Phase of Devolution

Following the completion of the Phase 2 Devolution Programme in September 2024, and with ongoing challenges for Cornwall Council in terms of managing and maintaining public open spaces and play facilities, a Penzance Council Devolution Working Group meeting took place on the 17 February 2025, followed by an informal Council Meeting on 11 March 2025 to consider and prioritise future sites for potential devolution.

Penzance Council is not being asked to commit to any or all of these sites at this stage but for them to be the priority for further investigation and negotiation.

Town Help Desk

We understand that as more and more Public Services withdraw their face-to-face services and ask people to report issues online, it can be increasingly difficult to get help.

Penzance Council has been developing a 'Town Help Desk' to assist members of the public who are struggling to report issues to Cornwall Council, or who cannot find the information they are looking for from Public Services websites.



Penzance Food Festival 2024 held in Penlee Park. Image: Danny North

Leisure and Amenities

Penlee Park

The 2024 Penzance Food Festival was a resounding success, having been well attended by a significant number of people. It acted as a showcase for local food, music, partnership working and for Penlee Park as the event's location.

Building on the success of the inaugural Penzance Food Festival, Penzance Council have once again approved the use of Penlee Park for the festival's return in September.

In preparation for the possibility that the Penzance Food Festival 2025 might not be so lucky with the weather as last year, robust wet weather plans are being put in place to ensure that supporting the event doesn't cause unnecessarily significant damage to Penlee Park to detract from its use at other times of the year.

This year, for the first time, Penlee Park will also play host to an important element of Golowan Festival in June 2025. The new Community and Family Area based in the park on Mazey Day will offer engaging activities and entertainment for all ages.

As well as food and craft stalls, there will be performance stages a bar, family and kids activities, and a youth area organised by PZN Youth.

Princess May Recreation Ground

The devolved transfer of Princess May Recreation Ground to Penzance Council in September 2024, marked the completion of the Phase 2 Devolution Programme, originally resolved by Penzance Council in February 2019.

Penzance Council are working with Princess May Recreation CIC to establish what the local community wants to see in terms of enhancements to the space in the future. A consultation with the community is planned in order to capture users' and residents' aspirations for the site.

Sadly, with the tragic passing of Cllr Melville Durrant in 2024, we lost a true community champion who had been involved in the improvement of Princess May Recreation Ground for decades.

Princess May Recreation CIC are inviting everyone to The Melville Durrant Memorial and Community Day on Saturday 7 June 2025, to celebrate the local hero and plan how to build on the work of Melville for the future of the Princess May Recreation Ground.



Penzance Council

Penlee Centre

Penlee Park

Penzance

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PENZANCE COUNCIL FINANCES – ACTUAL 2023/24 & UNAUDITED 2024/25

Penzance Council is currently in the process of finalising its accounts for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 which need to be approved at its next Council meeting for submission to the external auditors, BDO LLP, in June. The figures presented below confirm the final reported financial position for the year ended 31 March 2024 and provisional figures for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are yet to be audited.

31/03/24 £		31/03/25 £
	INCOME	
2,150,252	Precept	2,306,332
37,089	Interest & Dividends	86,308
4,701	Allotment Rents	5,167
579,700	Penlee House Gallery & Museum	469,930
0	Grant Funding	2,498
108,302	Wellfields Car Park	120,675
17,148	Commercial Rents	17,518
30,098	Other Receipts	92,428
2,927,291	TOTAL INCOME	3,100,856
	EXPENDITURE	
147,560	Council Administration	176,076
1,004,696	Salary Costs	1,138,227
148,736	S. 137 Payments	194,789
6,220	Allotments	5,001
478,219	Arts & Culture	446,365
132,833	Parks & Open Spaces	153,873
494,906	Community & Services	259,886
1,029	Other Payments	7,356
	Capital reduction of long term borrowing	0.00
2,414,199	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,381,572
778,848	Balance as at 01/04/24	973,097
2,927,291	Add Total Income	3,100,856
3,706,138		4,073,954
2,414,199	Deduct Total Expenditure	2,381,572
-1,508.39	Stock Adjustment	4,686.21
-317,334	Transfer to/ from reserves	-469,468
973,097	Balance as at 31/03/25	1,227,600

INCOME

The precept level for 2024/25 had increased by 7.2% from 2023/24 which related to £156,080. The precept is the amount of money raised from council tax to fund operations; it meets the difference between predicted income and planned expenditure for the year.

During the past financial year, the increase and stabilisation of interest rates has increased the Council's income return on savings and investments, which in-turn can help reduce the precept requirement. An additional £49,219 was received in interest and dividends compared to 2023/24, representing a 131% increase in yield.

The income from Penlee House Gallery and Museum compares to be less than the previous financial year; while admissions income from the gallery has increased in the past year with the introduction of a trial Sunday opening period in the summer, which was a success, and some very popular exhibitions, within the 2023/24 period the gallery received a significant rebate on Non-Domestic rates backdated to 2017, in the region of £120,000, which was due to the Government changing the rules to support galleries and museums specifically by making them exempt from paying rates. It was agreed that this rebate would be used to support the museum directly with investment into the plant, building and development of the Coach House which will be delivered in 2025/26.

Income from Wellfields Car Park has increased, largely due to growing popularity. This trend is partly due to higher pricing of other car parks in the vicinity, while Penzance Council's review of fees and charges last year opted to maintain current charges to provide continued affordability for the community. Additionally, the introduction of a mobile payment option for the car park has improved convenience for users by now allowing both cash and digital payment which also contributed to an increase in daily ticket sales and overall revenue.

Other Receipts refers to income that does not relate to one of the specific income categories. The increase in 2024/25 of £62,330 was due mainly to an exceptional one-off receipt as part of funding from Cornwall Council which was paid upon the final transfer of Princess May Recreation Ground as that completed the most recent stage of devolution. These funds were allocated directly into the devolution services earmarked reserve which will be used for future developments to the Princess May site following consultation with residents later this year.

EXPENDITURE

The increase in Council administration is predominantly due to the two by-elections which were held in 2024/25, which was due to two vacancies which arose in the Newlyn and Mousehole ward and one vacancy in Penzance East ward. Cornwall Council oversee running elections and as the by-elections were solely for Penzance Council vacancies, the total cost was charged whereas scheduled elections are usually split 50/50 between the two Councils.

The salaries expenditure had increased from the previous year because of the 2024/25 pay award imposed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services; the effect of maternity cover for members of staff; incremental increases to employees on scale point ranges; additional members of staff due to expanding operations and reviews of the staffing structure.

The section 137 payments relate to community grants and service level agreements. The annual grants budget was fully allocated to recipients with a total of £63,000 awarded, plus there were new service level agreements with Sustainable Penzance and Penzance and Newlyn Youth CIC, as well as existing agreements, including Jubilee Pool and Pengarth Day Centre continuing.

Expenditure under Arts and Culture was marginally lower as, in 2023/24, commission was paid to the property tax specialist used to undertake the rebate of the Non-Domestic Rates which led to the increased income as mentioned above; administration costs were lower under the Penlee House budget due to paying for agency staff in 2023/24 before the restructure of the team was completed and permanent staff were recruited in 2024/25 (Agency staff classify as a business expense and cannot be classified as a salary cost).

Under Parks and Open Spaces, the increase related to the devolution of Princess May Recreation Ground which is an additional open space to manage and comes with additional expenditure.

Under Community and Services expenditure, the reduction in expenditure is due to fewer capital projects than undertaken in 2023/24; in that year there was the replacement of the retaining wall in Wellfields Car Park, the community purchase of Centenary Hall on Chapel Street and the grandstand repair and replacement of roof at Penzance Football Club.