



**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

**PENLEE CENTRE
PENLEE PARK
PENZANCE
CORNWALL TR18 4HE
Telephone: (01736) 363405
Email: info@penzance-tc.gov.uk**

TOWN CLERK: JAMES HARDY

NOTICE OF MOTION TO PENZANCE COUNCIL

Please note that Standing Orders 2, 11 and 12 apply to motions. Written notice of a motion must be submitted to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days (*not including weekends, bank holidays or the day of the meeting*) prior to the meeting.

Section A – To be completed by Councillors

Title of Motion:	Local Outpatient Appointments Campaign
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	No
Proposed by:	Cllr Stephen Reynolds
Seconded by:	Cllr Bonnie Jackson
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	1. The West Cornwall HealthWatch campaign to ensure that patients attending outpatient appointments are seen locally, wherever that is possible, and clinically appropriate, be supported. 2. The campaign be promoted through the Council's media and community engagement activities, and a person be designated to liaise with West Cornwall HealthWatch in furtherance of the campaign. 3. The Chief Executives and Chairs of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust and the NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board be informed of the Council's support.
Background (to be provided by the proposer)	As Town Mayor, I was approached by West Cornwall HealthWatch with a request that the Council support this campaign, in the following terms:

	<i>“Patients from the West Cornwall area, are routinely allocated appointments not only at Treliske hospital but even further afield e.g. in Falmouth, St Austell, Bodmin and Newquay. It would appear that the recent government performance targets are making it more likely that patients will be expected to travel to venues all across Cornwall. Travelling further for appointments transfers the cost in time and money from the health service onto patients and can be particularly problematic for those who need to access public transport. It is especially difficult for vulnerable, frail or very elderly patients.</i> <i>We are also concerned about the environmental impact of hundreds of patients criss-crossing Cornwall to access clinic appointments.</i> <i>West Cornwall HealthWatch believes that all patients in Cornwall, should be offered the choice to be seen locally wherever possible and for us in Penwith, this means West Cornwall or St Michaels hospital.</i> <i>It has recently been verified that patients do have the right to ask to be seen locally, however the policy states that “the onus is on the patient to ask” and to our knowledge patients are not routinely given this information.</i> <i>We feel it more important than ever that patients are informed and encouraged to exercise their choice, so we hope that you regard this as an important local issue and would be willing to support this campaign by initially putting it forward for discussion/endorsement at the next town council meeting.”</i> In addition, the local public transport survey conducted recently by the Cornwall Rural Community Charity highlighted the difficulty of accessing healthcare appointments as a major issue for people in the Penwith area (the report can be downloaded for reference via this link: https://cornwallrcc.org.uk/rural-transport).
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	Financial and staffing / resources implications: Communications Officer input in terms of signposting the campaign, Town Clerk input in terms of writing to RCHT and ICB. Reputational implications: positive, shows engagement by Penzance Council with healthcare issues and support for a local-based campaign. Alignment with strategic priorities: particularly good fit with Resilience and Well-Being and Environment (given potential to reduce unnecessary journeys).
Proposers signature	(confirmed electronically)
Seconders signature	(confirmed electronically)

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Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	If Penzance Council promotes a campaign it should be prepared to answer media enquiries about it. Currently, there is no further information about the campaign on the West Cornwall HealthWatch website or social media page. This motion was initially considered at the meeting of Council held on 21 July 2025, where it was deferred in order to allow the Royal Cornwall's Trust to be contacted so that it might be provided with the right of reply. The response from the Trust is set out at Appendix 1 to this motion and highlights the various factors which affect outpatient appointments.
Financial and budgetary implications	N/A
Legal and procedural implications	<i>None.</i>
Staffing and resource implications	<i>The staffing and resource impact are set out above.</i>
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	<i>Accepted</i>
Meeting date	<i>21 July 2025 / 15 September 2025</i>
Referred to Committee <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Motion carried, amended or failed at the meeting(s)	
Detail of amendments <i>(if any)</i>	

Minute reference(s)	



Royal Cornwall Hospitals

NHS Trust

Mr Ridington
Penzance Council
Penlee Centre, Penlee Park
Penzance TR18 4HE

Royal Cornwall Hospital
Truro
Cornwall
TR1 3LJ

Via email: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: royalcornwallhospitals.nhs.uk

26 August 2025

Dear Mr Ridington

Thank you for your email following the recent meeting of Penzance Council and the motion to support the West Cornwall HealthWatch campaign in relation to outpatient appointments for people in the West of Cornwall.

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals provide more than 430,000 outpatient appointments each year, across 33 locations. West Cornwall Hospital in Penzance, where I am sure you are aware we have recently opened a new £9.1m purpose-designed department, is our second largest location, providing over 36,000 outpatient appointments.

The department provides outpatient clinics across 38 different specialties and is equipped with technology to link patients remotely with clinicians in other parts of Cornwall and beyond.

Outpatient appointments are offered with priority on clinical urgency and then on the soonest available appointment. This may not always be the closest location and applies equally, regardless of where in the county a patient resides; our aim being to ensure patients are seen as soon as possible, working toward the maximum 18-week referral to treatment national standard.

Appointment letters and texts offer patients the opportunity to change dates, times and locations where they are not convenient. If a patient would prefer to wait longer to be seen closer to home, this can be arranged, provided the type of clinic they need runs at that location. This does have a negative impact on our waiting time performance, but we would not deliberately obstruct patients from making this choice.

Our data shows patients attending West Cornwall Hospital outpatient clinics have the lowest average journey times (based on their home postcode) suggesting these clinics are largely being filled by patients from the local area.

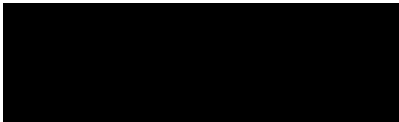
Due to patient referral numbers, need for specialist diagnostic equipment, and/or clinic space, we are unable to provide clinics for every specialty from West Cornwall Hospital.

Indeed, for some of the most highly specialist services all patients from Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly must travel out of county. We are however, actively looking at how we can continue to expand the range of clinics on offer, whilst balancing this with the impact this could have on patients in other parts of the county, who may have to travel further as a result.

In response to the feedback from the West Cornwall Development Group, where we have a number of public representatives, we will be doing more to ensure patients are aware of their ability to change their appointments and to be seen at a more convenient location if their clinic is offered there.

The geography of Cornwall and access to public transport is certainly a challenge, and our population in the north and east of the county face some issues which are similar to some of those experienced by patients in the west of Cornwall. We believe there is great opportunity as we see the advent of integrated neighbourhood teams as part of the NHS 10 Year Plan to further improve access and provide more care close to home for everyone.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Robin Jones.

Robin Jones

Chief Operating Officer

A black rectangular box redacting contact information, likely a phone number or email address.



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Section A – To be completed by Councillors

Title of Motion:	<i>Supporting a Peaceful Permanent Resolution in Palestine and the Region.</i>
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	No.
Proposed by:	<i>Councillor Jane Pugh</i>
Seconded by:	<i>Councillors Osborne, Trevail and Young.</i>
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	1. <i>This Council, in line with its values and behaviours, supports a permanent and complete peaceful resolution to the hostilities in Palestine.</i> 2. <i>Accordingly, this Council supports the following international initiatives:-</i> • <i>The United Nations General Assembly resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in Gaza;</i> • <i>An embargo on the trade in weapons with Israel;</i> • <i>A ban on trade with Israel;</i> • <i>The delivery of unhindered Humanitarian Aid to Gaza; and</i> • <i>The demand for the release of Israeli hostages;</i> 3. <i>In light of (2.) above, this Council commits to no longer knowingly purchasing Israeli goods until a peaceful resolution is secured.</i>

	<i>4. A letter to this effect be sent to both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of HM Government.</i>
Background (to be provided by the proposer)	<i>To show support for the citizens of Palestine and the remaining Israeli hostages.</i> <i>To encourage the UK government.</i> <i>To encourage other local councils to act likewise.</i> <i>I align this proposal with supporting 16 Days of Activism and of Cornwall Council flying the Ukrainian flag when it was invaded by Russia.</i>
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	<i>This entails</i> <i>Writing to David Lammy, Foreign Secretary, Keir Starmer Prime Minister.</i> <i>Making a public statement through Penzance Council's print and social media.</i> <i>Members and officers managing questions and counter-arguments from members of the public.</i>
Proposers signature	Confirmed by email.
Seconders signature	Confirmed by email.

Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	None.
Financial and budgetary implications	By adopting a blanket resolution to not purchase goods from a specific area, there may be instances where the Council is unable to achieve best value. However, in this instance, the impact, if any, is likely to be minimal.
Legal and procedural implications	Standing Order 11(a) states that '<i>A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and shall relate to the performance of the Council's functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.</i>' At first glance this motion would not meet these criteria as it does not affect the Council's area or its residents and nor is the matter within the powers or obligations of the Council. However, the purchase of goods is clearly a function of the Council and so, in this instance, item (3.) has allowed this motion to be classed as 'in order'.

Staffing and resource implications	There may be staffing implications due to the need to manage questions and counter-arguments from members of the public, as has been referenced above , in addition to the minor implications associated with writing to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. It is also important to note that this is an emotional issue for some and so staff may require support if they are regularly subjected to complaints and/or harassment in light of the Council's decision.
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	Accepted
Meeting date	15 September 2025
Referred to Committee <i>(if applicable)</i>	N/A
Motion carried, amended or failed at the meeting(s)	
Detail of amendments <i>(if any)</i>	
Minute reference(s)	



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Section A – To be completed by Councillors

Title of Motion:	<i>Smartphone Free Schools initiative</i>
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	<i>No</i>
Proposed by:	<i>Cllr Stephen Reynolds</i>
Seconded by:	<i>Cllr Thalia Marrington</i>
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	1. <i>This Council writes to all school leaders within the Penzance parish expressing support for the Smartphone Free Schools campaign, and inviting them to meet informally with a view to facilitating progress towards a phased “Smartphone Free Schools” policy.</i> 2. <i>Subject to (1.) above, and dependent on the outcome of discussions with school leaders, this Council commits to the consideration of a ‘Smartphone Free Schools’ covenant at a future meeting.</i>
Background (to be provided by the proposer)	<i>As Town Mayor, I was approached by Cllr Juliet Line (CC Division Member for Ludgvan, Madron, Gulval & Heamoor) and Emily Hudson (Regional Leader, Smartphone Free Childhood, Cornwall & IoS) to explore the possibility for Penzance Council to facilitate moves towards a “Smartphone Free Schools” policy in the Penzance Parish.</i>

	<i>They informed me that Newquay Town Council had recently supported a similar initiative, playing a facilitating role with local schools following a presentation and resolution put to the Town Council on 5 March 2025 (see extract from minutes as attached).</i> <i>Emily Hudson has since provided an information sheet outlining some of the key issues, a copy of which is attached.</i> <i>I believe that as a Council, we should give serious consideration to supporting this campaign.</i> <i>It aligns closely with our Future Generations Pledge, and with our commitment to the well-being of our local communities.</i> <i>It also aligns with our consistent support for the ongoing campaign on violence against women and girls.</i> <i>While Penzance Council has no responsibility for education provision, and cannot mandate any action on the part of schools within the Parish, we can nonetheless take a lead in highlighting this issue, and facilitating discussions that may lead to the voluntary implementation of a "Smartphone Free Schools" policy within the Parish.</i>
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	<i>The resource implications are relatively minor, given that it is expected that the Council's role would essentially be that of a facilitator.</i> <i>There would be a small requirement of officer time in dealing with correspondence, and potentially in hosting or attending initial meetings with school representatives.</i>
Proposers signature	<i>(received by email)</i>
Seconders signature	<i>(confirmed by email)</i>

Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	N/A
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Financial and budgetary implications	
Legal and procedural implications	<i>None envisaged.</i>
Staffing and resource implications	<i>None other than those set out above.</i>
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	Accepted
Meeting date	15 September 2025
Referred to Committee <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Motion carried, amended or failed at the meeting(s)	
Detail of amendments <i>(if any)</i>	
Minute reference(s)	

NEWQUAY TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTE
REF:**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 05 March 2025 at 7pm held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Marcus Hill, Newquay.

ACTION:**Present**

Cllrs D Creek (Mayor), M North (Deputy Mayor), L Wright, J Brook, S Thomson, M Motta, F Williamson, N Morris, R Souray, K Larsen, A Hannan, J Kenny, K Towill

Also attending

Mr A Curtis (Chief Executive & Town Clerk), Mrs L Spark (PA to Chief Executive), Cllr J Fitter, Rvd C Anderson, Inspector S Johnson and 4 members of the public.

015/25**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Slade, O Monk and late arrival apologies from Cllr A Goudge. No apologies were received by Cllrs L Gardner, J Bell, S Hick, D Cheney.

016/25**Interests**

As and when.

017/25**Minutes****017/25
(A)**

A. 05 February 2025

It was proposed by Cllr D Creek, seconded by Cllr S Thomson and

**017/25
(A)(1)**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 05 February 2025 are a true reflection of the meeting and had been adopted.

1 member abstained.

018/25**Matters Arising**

None

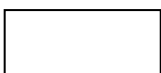
019/25**Community Safety Reports**

Inspector Johnson gave members a verbal overview of his written report.

Q1. Cllr K Larsen thanked the Inspector and asked if there is something that the town might be able to do to help rehabilitation when shoplifting offenders leave prison and then reoffend?

A1. The Inspector informed members that it is a difficult question as they do not get released from prison without support, there is an Integrated Offender Management team within the Police who engage with the individual when they are released on probation along with the probation support team as well. The type of items they are shoplifting, are things they do not need to because there are things in place to support that like foodbanks that we already provide. It is not an easy fix, there are many ways we try to engage with them.

19.17 Inspector Johnson exited the meeting.



020/25

Open Session for Electors of Newquay – Verbal/Written Questions (15 minutes)

Member of the public - Charlie a science teacher for 16 years in newquay.

Charlie provided members with a document about a smartphone free childhood and spoke about smartphones and the harm of smartphones in young people, statistics and what we can do about it. This is a matter that needs collective action, and some Towns and Boroughs in UK have done it amazingly already, some whole countries have done it. Our government are looking at the Safer Phones Bill on Friday, but we cant really wait for them as it will take a year to decide and the bill doesn't do everything that we need it to do yet. My ambition and what I would like to see is for all Newquay schools to be phone free by September 2025, every Head Teacher that I have spoken to looked so happy and relieved, likewise for teachers and other parents. I think by making schools smartphone free then we send a clear message to the community that smart phones, not ordinary phones are incompatible with child safety. Would like to join the Towns, Boroughs and Countries leading the way on this and make Newquay the first smartphone free schools' town in the west county and I am asking if the Town Councillors would support this movement.

Cllr D Creek thanked Charlie for her poignant discussion and informed her that Cornwall Council are the local authority in terms of education in Cornwall, although clearly the Town Council represents the voices of our community. I think we could have a proper discussion at the C&T Committee about this.

Cllr R Souray thanked Charlie for the most powerful moment he has experienced in chamber since becoming a town councillor. I whole heartily support this as a member and as a resident of Newquay.

Cllr K Towill asked if smartphones are allowed in lessons now? Charlie informed members that the Government want all schools to be on their own and make their own decisions, they say that they are giving Head Teachers autonomy, but really, they are isolating them. The lowest level you could choose is to have phones as never seen, never heard and never used. The rule in most schools is that your phone is switched off and, in your bag. They inevitably sneak into pockets, which is a distraction, and the average child gets 239 notifications a day, it is impossible to police.

Cllr J Kenny asked what would you like us as a Council to do? Charlie asked for support towards collective action and that as a community we see this as a good thing. Cllr J Kenny asked if a letter to the schools would help to show that we are supportive? Charlie thinks that the schools would like to know if they have your support.

Cllr D Creek would like to write to the schools to offer support on behalf of the community in the endeavour to remove smartphones from schools, we could also be a central convening space should the schools like to have a summit. Best suited to be discussed at C&T under their remit.

It was proposed by Cllr D Creek, seconded by Cllr F Williamson and

020/25
(1)

RESOLVED unanimously to write on behalf of the town council to all of the Heads of all the primary and secondary schools in Newquay with our support for this campaign and offering for them to come and make representations at the next C&T Meeting.

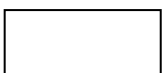
CE&TC /
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021/25

Correspondence

19.35 Cllr D Creek declared an interest and left the room.

Cllr M North read out a question that was sent in via email:



As a Newquay resident and a tenant at 28 Mount wise, having had incorrect statements being made in public about my employees and tenancy how do the Cllr Gardners comments fit into the Nolan principles, and should I be looking to move my business to a different site?

The Town Clerk read out a proposed draft response for members.

Members discussed and supported the draft response with an amendment to the third paragraph to include clarity between officers and members, the day to day running and the strategic direction setting might be helpful.

It was proposed by Cllr M North, seconded by Cllr R Souray and

021/25 (1)	RESOLVED unanimously for the Town clerk to send the drafted response with the amendments suggested in the third paragraph.	CE&TC
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19.37 Cllr D Creek returned to the room.

021/25 (A)	A. Letter from Redruth Town Council
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Members discussed and asked if the draft response could have the wording strengthened around the fact that Cornwall Council get the lions share.

Cllr J Kenny asked if the response could give some indication on how the money will be spent.

It was proposed by Cllr D Creek, seconded by Cllr R Souray and

021/25 (A)(1)	RESOLVED unanimously for the Town Clerk to send the drafted response with the suggested tweaks.	CE&TC
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022/25 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor gave members an overview of his recent and future engagements and read out a statement regarding his year as Mayor.

The Town Clerk gave members an overview of how the next set of meetings will work as it is an election year, the first item at the annual council meeting will be to elect the Mayor & Deputy Mayor for the civic year. There will be a period of time before Committees are formed.

19.44 2 members of the public exited the meeting.

19.44 1 member of the public entered the meeting.

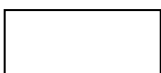
023/25 Financial Statements

It was proposed by Cllr D Creek, seconded by Cllr S Thomson and

023/25 (1)	RESOLVED unanimously to note the payments list totalling £177,208.18	Note to RFO
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024/25 Open Session for Cornwall Councillors verbal, written or tabled reports

Cornwall Councillor K Towill – Since the last meeting, there have been similar situations that have arisen all around the county with dogs falling ill on beaches, Cornwall Council are still investigating. The underpass by the Zoo is in a shocking state, in contact with Cornwall Council Officers to try and get some action down there and will be trying to get it on an ongoing maintenance schedule.



Cornwall Councillor J Fitter informed members that he is attempting to get confirmation from Cornwall Council about the status on the Watergate Bay carpark and is asking for assurances that they will remain free out of season, will be meeting with Corserv and Phil Mason. Cllr Rushworth who covers Porthcothen, he has had it confirmed that theirs will be free in the winter months. At the St Columb Minor Residents meeting tonight, they wanted to congratulate all on the works that are happening at Priory woods, they are exceptionally pleased with what they have seen, and the Council team are brilliant. Thanked the Mayor for looking after his residents in his civic year. Cllr M North informed Cllr Fitter that Cllr Thomson should get the praise for Priory Woods as she was the instigator.

Cllr D Creek asked if Cllr Fitter has seen the agreement for the handing over of these car parks, are there any minimum terms or break clauses in it? Cllr J Fitter informed members that he has seen no documents in relation to the proposed transfer. Cllr J Kenny informed members that she has read what has been signed off and it is a 5-year contract with a break clause after 2 years and understands that there is a movement in Cornwall Council to call this decision in as it was signed off by Phil mason subject to call in. One of the conditions was they had to consult with the parishes concerned, which they have not done.

Cllr D Creek asked Cornwall Councillors J Fitter and K Towill to call this decision in to Cornwall Council on the basis that they have not consulted with us as the town council.

025/25

Committee Minutes and Reports

025/25
(A)

A. Minutes of the Environment and Facilities (E&F) Committee held on 11 February 2025

It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr A Hannan and

025/25
(A)(1)

RESOLVED unanimously to note the minutes of the Environment and Facilities (E&F) Committee held on 11 February 2025

025/25
(A)(i)

i. RECOMMENDATION A [EF144/24(A)] - Library Roof Tender

It was proposed by Cllr A Hannan, seconded by Cllr K Larsen and
RESOLVED unanimously to RECOMMEND to Full Council a release of up to £2,500 from the Council/Property EMR and proceed with Option 2 and appoint Cookson Consultancy to undertake a full structural survey of the Library Flat roof.

It was proposed by Cllr K Larsen, seconded by Cllr A Hannan and

025/25
(A)(i)(1)

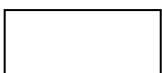
RESOLVED unanimously to release of up to £2,500 from the Council/Property EMR and proceed with Option 2 and appoint Cookson Consultancy to undertake a full structural survey of the Library Flat roof.

RFO /
DCE&TC025/25
(B)

B. Minutes of the Planning & Licensing (P&L) Committee held on:

- i. 15 January 2025**
- ii. 22 January 2025**

It was proposed by Cllr J Kenny, seconded by Cllr S Thomson and



025/25 (B)(1) RESOLVED unanimously to note the minutes of the Planning & Licensing (P&L) Committee held on 15 & 22 January 2025

026/25 Newquay Town Council Issues

026/25 (A) A. Code of Conduct Complaint - Decision Notice

It was proposed by Cllr J Brook, seconded by Cllr M North and

026/25 (A)(1) RESOLVED unanimously to note the decision notice.

CE&TC

027/25 Chairman's Other Business

The Mayor informed members that this is the last full council meeting of this term, there are committee meetings between now and the elections. The pre-election period starts on the 14th March.

The Mayor thanked Cllrs for the past civic year and term.

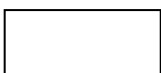
028/25 Date and time of the next meeting

This is the final scheduled meeting of this Council. Save for emergencies, the next meeting post elections will be the Annual Council Meeting scheduled for 14 May 2025 (7pm) which will be for the newly elected council.

The Chairman thanked those attending and the meeting closed at 20.23pm

Signed..... The Mayor Cllr D Creek

Date.....



Fully Smartphone Free Schools

There are two types of mobile phone

- Smartphone –phone calls, SMS texts, Full internet access, unlimited games and social media –designed to be addictive
- Basic phone –phone calls, SMS texts and basic games. Also called a simple, retro, brick, dumb or feature phone.

Safety is often cited as the reason for getting a child a smartphone, but child with a smartphone is more likely to

- Be involved in a road safety incident due to distraction
- Be mugged due to using an expensive item which is likely to contain financial information
- Meet an inappropriate stranger online
- Be bullied online - 84% of bullying now takes place on a device (source: OFCOM 2022)
- Be exposed to harmful content online

Previously the main trigger for parents buying a smartphone was the transition to secondary school but last year's figures from OFCOM state that 27% of 3 and 4 year olds now own their own phone, the figures rise to 61% of children aged 8 to 11.

94% of primary parents think smartphones are harmful
(source: ParentKind poll of 2,496 adults April 2024)

70% of parents believe smartphones negatively impact family life
(source: HMD poll of 10,000 parents June 2024)

51% of children under 13 use Social Media platforms despite being under the legal minimum age.
(Source: OFCOM Children and Parents Media Use and attitudes report April 2024)

Mental Health

Sapiens Lab did a global study of 27,969 young people and concluded that mental health was directly linked to the age at which they first got their own internet phone. The younger they were, the worse their mental health when older.

Harmful Content

The British Board of Film Classification Report March 2022 reported that 51% of children aged 11-13 have seen hardcore pornography.

90% of girls say they are sent unwanted explicit content
(Source: OFSTED Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools 2021).

Parental controls are inadequate and easily bypassed, meaning parents are unable to view and vet videos.

Addiction

A University of Birmingham study in February 2025 concluded that the average British teenager now spends 35 hours a week on a smartphone.

The average teenager receives 237 notifications a day
(Source: Common Sense Media 2023).

This leaves little time for friends, sports, playing, homework, family, sleep and normal brain development.

Peer pressure and Safeguarding

One reason schools have uniform is so that disadvantaged pupils are not easily identified by their clothes. However the current system allows pupils to show off their latest expensive phones, creating pressure for children and parents.

Cornwall's schools don't allow pupils to bring the following into school: strangers, cameras, camcorders, expensive items, toys/games, addictive items, self harm material, pornographic material, DVD players showing 15, 18 and 21 age rated videos, terrorist or traumatic material – but the smartphones either in pupils' blazer pockets or handed into the primary school office mean potentially all of those items being brought into school.

What is the option?

A fully smartphone free school only allows basic phones and not smartphones onto the premises.

In Cornwall there are 6 fully smartphone free schools, all of them primary schools.

Newquay will become the first town of smartphone free schools, with primary schools going fully smartphone free in September 2025, and secondaries starting a rolling introduction with year 7 in September 2026 so that they will be smartphone free by 2030.

Being a fully smartphone free school allows children to have break from their phone for 6-7 hours. It prevents children from being exposed to harmful content on the journey to school and whilst at school, and challenges the social norms on this issue whilst providing a safe, distraction-free and neutral environment.

(Information sheet courtesy of:

Emily Hudson, Regional Leader, Smartphone Free Childhood, Cornwall & IoS)



**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

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CORNWALL TR18 4HE
Telephone: (01736) 363405
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TOWN CLERK: JAMES HARDY

NOTICE OF MOTION TO PENZANCE COUNCIL

Please note that Standing Orders 2, 11 and 12 apply to motions. Written notice of a motion must be submitted to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days (*not including weekends, bank holidays or the day of the meeting*) prior to the meeting.

Section A – To be completed by Councillors

Title of Motion:	<i>Devolution for Cornwall</i>
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	<i>No</i>
Proposed by:	<i>Cllr Stephen Reynolds</i>
Seconded by:	<i>Cllr Simon Reed</i>
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	<i>This Council:-</i> <i>(i) Reaffirms its position, as expressed in Resolution 11(m) passed at its meeting held on 11 November 2024, that “the one and only devolution option for the Duchy is to devolve powers to Cornwall, and not to a broader combined region alongside other large authorities in the south-west”.</i> <i>(ii) Supports the motion recently passed by Cornwall Council calling for any devolution settlement to reflect Cornwall’s national identity and the national minority status of the Cornish, and for Cornwall to be formally recognised as one of the five nations of the United Kingdom.</i> <i>(iii) Subject to (ii) above, mandates the Town Mayor to write (a) to the Leader of Cornwall Council expressing support for that authority’s position, and requesting that this Council be kept informed of any further discussions with central government, and (b) to the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution setting out this Council’s position.</i>

	(iv) Also subject to (ii) above, the Town Clerk communicate the Council's position to the Cornwall Association of Local Councils so that it can be shared with other town and parish councils, to encourage them to adopt similar positions.
Background (to be provided by the proposer)	On 11 November 2024, Penzance Council approved a statement on central government devolution, in which the view was expressed that "We support the principle of devolution of wide powers from Whitehall to Cornwall. But we are convinced that the one and only devolution option for the Duchy is to devolve powers to Cornwall, and not to a broader combined region alongside other large authorities in the south-west". That statement was sent to Jim O'Neil, OBE MP (Minister for Local Government and English Devolution at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) and other interested parties. It was a response to the direction of travel set out by HM Government (whereby substantial devolution of powers would be limited to larger combined authorities with a population in the region of 1.5 million), and reflected widespread concern among Cornish people that a combined authority would lead to a dilution of Cornish identity, and to unacceptably remote and unaccountable decision-making. In July, the new administration at Cornwall Council reaffirmed the position of the previous administration supporting "Cornwall-only" devolution, and went further in calling for HM government to reflect the protected national minority status of the Cornish and to formally grant Cornwall status as the fifth nation of the United Kingdom. As a proactive, forward-looking Council with strong local roots and a commitment to supporting our distinctive cultural identity, it is entirely appropriate that we support that position. The people of Cornwall are resilient, resourceful and innovative, and we deserve to have a much greater say in our own future.
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	No material resource implications other than handling correspondence with interested parties. Positive reputational implications by aligning with a cause that resonates with the people of Cornwall, and by adopting a proactive stance that may help Penzance Council have a greater influence in potential future devolution discussions.

Proposers signature	Confirmed by email.
Seconders signature	Confirmed by email.

Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	None.
Financial and budgetary implications	None.
Legal and procedural implications	None.
Staffing and resource implications	None.
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	<i>Accepted.</i>
Meeting date	<i>15 September 2025</i>
Referred to Committee <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Motion carried, amended or failed at the meeting(s)	
Detail of amendments <i>(if any)</i>	
Minute reference(s)	