



**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

**PENLEE CENTRE
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PENZANCE
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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>Cornish Devolution</i>
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	<i>No</i>
Proposed by:	<i>Stephen Reynolds</i>
Seconded by:	<i>Duncan Paul</i>
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	<i>This Council endorses the position statement regarding central government devolution to Cornwall, as set out at Appendix 1 to this motion, sends it to the addresses listed and circulates it to the other town and parish councils across Cornwall for their endorsement.</i>
Background (<i>to be provided by the proposer</i>)	<i>Andy Burnham MP, widely expected to take office as Prime Minister within a matter of weeks, recently gave a speech in Manchester outlining his vision for devolving extensive powers away from Westminster.</i> <i>The speech gave no details of which regions might be considered (although there was a broad reference to “the southwest”).</i> <i>It is therefore imperative that the potential Prime Minister be made aware as soon as possible of the overwhelming support (and political logic) for devolving powers to Cornwall, and Cornwall alone.</i>

	<i>Penzance Council endorsed a similar statement at its meeting of 11 November 2024, but Members are being asked to endorse this new statement because:</i> - <i>Andy Burnham's recent speech marks a potential shift in government thinking towards a more radical approach to devolution, and it is important to seize the moment.</i> - <i>The November 2024 statement was endorsed by the previous council, so this motion provides an opportunity for the new council (post the May 2025 elections) to make its position clear.</i> Appendix 1: Statement on Devolution from Central Government Submitted to Town and Parish Councils for Approval
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	<i>Financial, staffing and resource implications: marginal, limited mainly to sending the proposed statement to interested parties (addressees, town and parish councils), with potentially some requirement for further exchanges of correspondence, plus any external communications regarding the Council's decision.</i> <i>Reputational implications: wholly positive. This initiative would show Penzance Council taking a lead on an issue of crucial importance to current and future generations of Cornish people, and potentially help us have a voice in future conversations about Cornish devolution.</i>
Proposers signature	<i>Submitted electronically</i>
Seconders signature	<i>Submitted electronically</i>

Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	In response to the comment -<i>"Reputational implications: wholly positive."</i> It's important to note that no decision is without risk of adverse publicity and it is very unlikely that the whole electorate would feel positive about greater devolution for Cornwall.
Financial and budgetary implications	<i>None apparent.</i>

Legal and procedural implications	<i>None apparent.</i>
Staffing and resource implications	<i>While there would be staffing and resource implications were the statement to be circulated to all town and parish councils in Cornwall individually, these can be avoided by circulating the statement via the Cornwall Association of Local Councils.</i>
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	<i>Accepted.</i>
Meeting date	<i>20 July 2026</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)	

To: Andy Burnham MP

Cc: Cllr Leigh Frost (Leader of Cornwall Council)
Andrew George MP Ben Maguire MP
Perran Moon MP Noah Law MP
Jayne Kirkham MP Anna Gelderd MP

**STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - SUBMITTED TO
THE TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS OF CORNWALL FOR ENDORSEMENT**

Dear Andy,

Your recent speech in Manchester setting out your vision for radical decentralisation and devolution is hugely welcome news to the people of Cornwall, who have long argued that the Duchy merits a far-reaching devolution settlement befitting our aspiration to attain “fifth nation” status within the United Kingdom.

In your own words, devolution works when power is put “in the hands of the people and places who can use it best”. For us, that means devolving powers to Cornwall and Cornwall alone, and not to a broader combined region alongside other large authorities in the south-west.

We in Cornwall have a huge affinity with the history, culture and identity of the place we call home – an identity recognised in our status as a protected National Minority, and in the burgeoning interest in our language and heritage. By contrast, devolving powers to a hybrid authority with which local people feel no affinity would risk undermining local democracy. The seat of devolved powers has to be on our own territory, where local people know their voices can be heard.

A Cornish devolution settlement also makes economic sense. The economic landscape of Cornwall is unique to us – and not shared with our neighbours in Plymouth, Devon or the “Greater South West”. While we do face some serious challenges, we also have many opportunities, such as our mineral wealth and potential for green energy – as well as our resilient, resourceful and inventive people.

Devolution can only unleash growth and opportunity, and reduce inequalities, if the devolved region is one for which local people feel genuine affinity. The people of Cornwall are ready, willing and keen to embrace devolution, and to take on extra powers to help us shape our land for future generations.

We believe that a standalone devolved administration here in Cornwall would fit perfectly with your mission to “make politics work for you and the place where you live”.

So we urge you and your team to commit to working with the people of Cornwall, and their elected representatives, to make our long-held dream of devolution a reality at last.

Oll an gwella / Best wishes