PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL: PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

Agenda Item 8: Cornwall Council Planning Committee Reform and New Member and Local Council Protocols

1.0 **Overview**

1.1 In the Summer 2026 Planning Newsletter and Town and Parish Council Newsletter dated 14 August 2026 Cornwall Council advised that they are reviewing the protocols for engagement between Elected Members, parish and town councils and planning officers following the introduction of national planning reforms and the new National Scheme of Delegation. These reforms will be introduced nationally and are mandatory for councils to implement.

The draft revised protocols set out how Cornwall Council will work together on planning matters, seek to resolve differences, and how applications will be referred to Planning Committee. The revised protocols will come into effect from 31 October 2026.

Cornwall Council have asked local councils to watch the presentation linked below which explains:

- Planning Committee reform and changes to delegation powers including the draft Cornwall Council Member protocol, and draft Local Council protocol
- The role of Neighbourhood Priorities Statements in the Local Plan process
- How to provide feedback on the draft protocols and the ways we engage in the future.

Committee are asked to watch the presentation in advance of this committee meeting (presentation approx. 18 minutes duration):

Link to presentation: presentation

A copy of the presentation slides are attached to this report as Appendix 1 for information,

1.2 Cornwall Council have arranged a training course on the revised protocols which will also cover Planning Committee reform and changes to delegation powers including new CC Member protocol, and new Local Council protocol and a Policy update including Neighbourhood Priorities Statements and Local Plan progress.

Course date 23 September, 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

Committee Councillors were sent the joining link for this event in an email on 14 August 2026. There is no need to book, and places are not limited for each council.

2.0 **Padstow Town Council Planning Procedure**

2.1 Following implementation of the new protocols the process and timescales for Cornwall Council to seek Consultee responses from Padstow Town Council will remain the same.

2.2 Committee are to note however, that after 31 October 2026 the Town Council's own Planning Procedure will need to be revised with regard to 5-day protocols and for the Town Council to previously refer an application to Cornwall Council Committee (Planning Procedure item: 5.1c; 5-2-5.3).

The type of applications eligible to be taken to Cornwall Council committee are changing significantly with the majority of applications being decided by delegated powers.

2.3 Cornwall Council understand that the 5-day protocol process is valued and will continue in a revised form (see draft Protocol for Local Councils in Appendix 1). In summary:

- If the local council has no concerns and agrees with the Planning Officer the application will go to a delegated decision;
- If a local council Agrees to Disagree with the Planning Officer the respective views are noted and the application will go to a delegated decision;
- In a change to the current protocol, if the local council disagrees with the Planning Officer and concerns remain, the application will be actioned dependent on whether it is categorised as a Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 application as detailed in the Protocol for Local Councils flowchart in Appendix 1.

2.4 The Council Support Officer will add an item to the November Planning & Highways Committee to agree changes to the Planning Procedure to be recommended to Full Council.

3.0 **Survey of responses**

3.1 After watching the presentation, local Councils are asked to complete a survey of responses by 17 September 2026.

3.2 Survey questions are as follows:

- How has your experience been using the existing protocols? *Always positive / Usually positive / Neutral / Usually negative / Always Negative*
- (Optional) Please explain the reasons for your response to the question above
- Overall, how clear do you find the revised protocols? *Very Clear / Fairly Clear / Neither Clear or Unclear / Fairly Unclear / Very Unclear*
- (Optional) Please explain the reasons for your response to the question above
- Is there anything missing from the protocol that would help local councils and members work effectively with planning officers under the new national arrangements? *No / Yes, please tell us what is missing*

- Taking account of Cornwall's geography and the number of parish and town councils, what do you think is the most practical and useful way for Cornwall Council to engage with you on wider planning matters, such as the Local Plan, neighbourhood planning, planning reform and infrastructure issues? (Please rank options in order of preference 1-7)
- *Written guidance/explainers*
- *In-person local meetings*
- *Cornwall Planning Partnership meetings*
- *Community Area Partnership (CAP) meetings*
- *Workshops/discussion sessions*
- *Online briefing sessions*
- *Email updates/newsletters*
- What is the one thing Cornwall Council could do differently to improve engagement with local councils and members on planning matters?

4.0 **Consideration for response**

4.1 Having watched the presentation and read the slides prior to this meeting, do Committee wish to respond to the survey above and, if so, what answers do they wish to give to the questions detailed in 2.2 above?