



Cornwall Association of Local Councils

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LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

FAQs

To assist local councils to prepare for elections in May 2025 CALC have provided a guidance document "[Guide to Town and Parish Council elections in Cornwall: May 2025](#)". Subsequent questions have been raised and this FAQ sheet has been produced and will continue to be updated as more questions and answers are generated. This FAQ sheet should be used in conjunction with the aforementioned guidance.

Version 2

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Candidate nomination procedures

How will candidate nomination packs be circulated and what are the associated costs for receiving hard copies?

Cornwall Council will circulate hardcopy nomination packs to a range of Cornwall Council and partner sites across Cornwall (including, for example, some libraries). A small charge will be made for this service. The amounts are not known but are thought to be low; these costs will be added to the final invoice being issued to local councils. Alternatively candidate packs can be collected from New County Hall free of charge.

Clerks will be informed where their local collection site will be – and given the option to change if needed. The papers will then be available to collect well in advance of the notice of election (14th March). The number of nomination packs for each council will be in excess of the number of seats – which allows for one pack per seat plus a small amount spare.

A small number of blank nomination packs are held by the clerk, who can then distribute to interested parties and made available as appropriate. Arrangements for this should fit the local circumstances but could include being made available at local venues. The clerk is not involved in the completion or submission of the forms at all, but is on hand to help the smooth distribution if possible.

In addition, the nomination packs can be requested electronically via the [Cornwall Council website](#). Candidates printing forms themselves will need to ensure that they print correctly according to the format displayed on the screen.

Will the electoral roll be provided to clerks?

Clerks will not be provided with the electoral roll/electoral register unless they specifically request this from Cornwall Council. Candidates will need their electoral roll number to complete their nomination forms – if clerks hold the electoral roll then clerks can provide this to candidates. If clerks choose not to request the electoral roll, candidates can simply contact the Cornwall Council elections team directly to obtain their electoral roll number.

Will there be an option for online checking of nomination forms before in-person submission?

There is no option for on line checking of nominations papers, but Cornwall Council has published annotated forms which are available [online](#) and show candidates how to complete the forms. There is also a candidate briefing due to take place on 12th March, being delivered by Cornwall Council; more information on this will become available in due course.

When will appointments for nomination forms submissions be available?

Appointments will be able to be made at satellite sites every weekday & every Saturday morning from 17th March - 1st April. These sites are St Johns Hall (Penzance), South Wheal Crofty (Camborne), Chy Trevail, Bodmin, Carlyon House, St Austell, and Luxstowe House, Liskeard.

In addition, appointments can be made at New County Hall Truro between 17th March – 2nd April. Candidate applications must be submitted in person, preferably by the candidate.

Can a person stand to be a candidate for any ward of the parish that they reside in?

Yes. If a person is eligible to stand for a given town/parish, they can stand in any of the wards within it – not just the one in which they live/work.

Information about new councillors**When is the count for local council elections likely to take place and how will results be communicated to parish clerks in time for May 6th?**

At 10am on Friday 2nd May the “verification” of the vote takes place. The count for Cornwall Council seats will follow and, depending on the number of contested elections, the count will either continue on Friday for local councils (if there are not many to count), or will take place instead on Saturday 3rd May from 10am. The latter is thought to be the more likely scenario.

Results will be published online as they are declared. Emails will be sent to clerks by the end of Saturday (unless there are unforeseen anomalies).

How many seats are there across all of Cornwall's local councils?

A combined figure of 2,051 seats across the Town, Parish, City and Community Councils.

Will contact information for newly elected members be provided other than their address on the electoral notices?

No. Cornwall Council are not able to pass on anything other than postal addresses to clerks. However, Cornwall Council write to each successful candidate, and have agreed to now include within the letter a request for the incoming councillors to contact the clerk at their earliest convenience.

You may wish to include a request for contact information in your own pre application information to candidates.

Pre-election period limitations**Can a Mayor's/Chair's event (charity balls, receptions etc) go ahead during the pre-election period?**

Such an event can proceed if it has ceremonial or historic significance, but it should be made clear that the event is in relation to the mayoral office, and not the individual – it is an event of the Town/Parish Council, not the Mayor/Chair themselves. If fundraising is involved, it should be made clear that this is to benefit a charity, not a political fund. It is important to ensure that the promotion pre-and-post event, and speeches thereat, should not breach the stipulations of the pre-election period. All councillors and prospective councillors should be afforded equal opportunity to be able to attend.

Ad hoc events should not be organised to take place during the pre-election period.

Can Councillor surgeries, or "meet your councillor" events continue during the pre-election period?

It is advised that such events organised by local councils and/or held in local council premises do not take place during the pre-election period. Candidates including existing councillors can organise their own meetings elsewhere, but cannot use the council premises or owned buildings i.e. library.

Can planned Neighbourhood Plan consultation/forum events with councillors go ahead (e.g. "stage 5" consultation)?

Councils need to be mindful of the ability to transact non-controversial business, particularly if it is a critical point in a Neighbourhood Plan timetable. The management group for the neighbourhood plan will be a separate organisation to the council itself, and the monitoring officer has advised that such events need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are in this situation, talk this through with the monitoring officer.

Last minute changes to the process

Are Cornwall Council elections likely to be postponed and if so would the full cost of the local council election have to be borne by the local councils?

Cornwall Council have given assurances that elections will not be postponed in 2025. If hypothetically an election was postponed in this manner, the full cost would go local councils.