



COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Department for Local Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
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13 October 2016

Dear Rt Hon S. Javid MP

Council of the Isles of Scilly Efficiency Plan, in respect of multi-year financial settlement offer

This is the Efficiency Plan for the Council of the Isles of Scilly, with regard to the Council's acceptance of the offer for a four-year financial settlement. This takes into account our responsibilities as a Fire and Rescue Authority, although the function of Chief Fire Officer¹ is now shared with Cornwall (as is the case with the Director of Public Health). Our requirements for Home Office conditions for Fire and Rescue authorities are satisfied in the Cornwall Corporate Business Plan 2016-2020² (pp38-41).

The Council has adopted a Corporate Plan³, which aligns operational and strategic aims. The Corporate Plan includes objectives that can be delivered by the significant transformation programmes required to respond to a challenging economic climate, made more uncertain by Brexit.

The Council has adopted a Medium Term Financial Plan⁴ (attached) that provides the vision required for savings and innovation, while presenting the stark financial reality of the difficulties in providing an exceptionally broad range of services to a small, isolated island community. The Council is actively engaged in the consultation process with government regarding local government finance and incentives.

¹ <http://committees.scilly.gov.uk/documents/s20110/Strategic%20Partnership%20Agreement%20with%20Cornwall%20Fire%20Rescue.pdf>

² <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-strategy-2015-2020-and-corporate-business-plan-2016-2020/>

³ <http://scilly.gov.uk/sites/default/files/OUR%20PLAN%20on%20one%20sheet%20corrected.pdf>

⁴ <http://committees.scilly.gov.uk/documents/s21431/Report%20Medium%20TermFinancial%20Plan%202016%20-%202021.pdf>

Innovative projects include the decision by Council to pursue a new approach to elder care⁵ on the islands in respect of health and social care integration.

The Isles of Scilly is taking advantage of its unique island context to meet economic and infrastructure challenges, providing solutions that are relevant to communities across the UK and beyond. Smart Islands, a partnership including The Duchy of Cornwall, Hitachi Europe Ltd and other local stakeholders, will deliver a pioneering smart infrastructure programme⁶, enabling the islands to develop integrated ways of managing energy, waste, water and sewerage. It will also deliver low carbon transport, eHealth solutions, internships, cultural exchanges and vital STEM skill delivery for young people on the islands. Through this ambitious project, Scilly is demonstrating that working in a sensitive and isolated environment does not need to be a disadvantage and that local constraints can stimulate innovation that benefits everybody.

At a strategic partnering level, the Council is also in advanced negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding an Inter-Authority Agreement⁷, demonstrating a willingness to collaborate in order to maintain service delivery in the face of a significant financial challenge, and where wider incentives aimed at business growth and housing growth have only a weak impact on the Council's income.

For more information on the services provided and how Council Tax is collected and where it is spent, please see the relevant information on the Council website⁸.

Yours sincerely,

Theo Leijser
Chief Executive

Cllr Amanda Martin
Chairman of Council

⁵ <http://committees.scilly.gov.uk/documents/s21423/Options%20Appraisal%20Covering%20Report.pdf>

⁶ http://committees.scilly.gov.uk/documents/s20103/loS_Infrastructure%20Plan_FINAL_loS.pdf

⁷ <http://committees.scilly.gov.uk/documents/s21444/Strategic%20Collaboration.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.scilly.gov.uk/council-democracy/council-tax>