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Subject: LOCAL MEMBERS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

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CC

Information Classification: PUBLIC

Good evening,

As the Local Government Association have recently held their AGM I thought I would share some of the points raised at the meeting with you.

Nearly 9 in 10 local Authorities fear that Nursery closures could affect them in the near future.

While all concerned are in favour of the Government funding package many fear it does not go far enough to protect the service in the long term.

Many of you will have seen the Council offering bus travel at a reduced cost over the last twelve months in an attempt to encourage more people to use public transport, Nationally this scheme has cost local authorities £452 million in the last year the LGA believe the concessionary scheme is not fit for purpose and is preventing Councils from investing in the future of the service.

82% of councillors who responded to a recent survey said they felt at risk some or all of the time while carrying out their role.

The number of councillors who said they have suffered abuse has doubled in the last twelve months.

The LGA reports that increasing number of Councils are keen to introduce Hybrid meetings to support the retention of Councillors and also to enable more disabled members of the community to become members and fully engage with able bodied members.

One in ten councils said they had lost at least one member since the return to Face to Face meetings, However this would need a change In the laws that councils have to abide by at present.

The LGA have identified a funding gap of £3 billion that we would need to bring service levels back to pre-cut levels. There are many factors to consider as to this has escalated in recent years.

Locally this last year has seen the levelling up funds in one guise or another give significant support to many local councils and other community groups and the next round will no doubt be oversubscribed again so my advice would be to do your homework early and build a robust application and business plan now that you know the pitfalls and the process it should hopefully be a little easier.

With the CAP in mind the sub groups for the funding bids and the Highway schemes have been selected and we have a sub with a lot of experience who will sit across both groups so I am confident that are in a good place going forward.

I would like to personally thank those members that have taken up the challenge and I am confident in their ability to deliver for the benefit of all members. I recently attended the quarterly meeting of the Cornwall youth Council as a Councillor advocate

And was very impressed with the progress made since our last meeting.

They have decided that the chair will stay in post for twelve months as opposed to changing every quarter.

Some of the group attended the last full council meeting and have decided to follow a similar format with regards the meetings they hold, Although they were less than impressed with the way some members conducted themselves in the chamber so have made it clear that they will not tolerate such behaviour.

They intend to canvas all local schools to broaden membership of the youth council so if any of you know someone who may be interested pleas let now and I will and I will contact the youth council officer to make the initial introduction.

Some of you will have no doubt seen the press release regarding an extra £9.1 that

Some of you will have no doubt seen the press release regarding an extra £20m that has been secured by the council for Highway improvements across the county although some of this extra funding has been earmarked for the Penwith CAP area I have no knowledge of what schemes are proposed at present but as soon as this information is live I will make sure to inform you all.

Cllr. Brian Clemens

Land's End Division

Cornwall Council

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