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# Standing Up for Cornwall

## The CING Manifesto

A self-reliant, sustainable, and prosperous Cornwall  
where local decisions are made by the people who live here.

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## Who We Are

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The Cornish Independent NonAligned Group is not a political party. We have no leader in Westminster telling us what to think. No central office writing our lines. No donors buying our loyalty. We are independent councillors who answer to the people of Cornwall and nobody else.

Being nonaligned means exactly what it says. When a proposal is good for Cornwall, we back it — regardless of who brought it forward. When it isn't, we say so. Our councillors vote according to their conscience and the needs of their constituents, not according to a party whip. That is a freedom no party politician can honestly claim.

This manifesto sets out what we stand for. Nobody imposed it from above. It comes from the conversations we have every week with the people we represent — on doorsteps, in parish halls, in our inboxes. These are Cornwall's priorities, and they are ours.

## What Cornwall Needs

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Cornwall is a county of extraordinary strengths. Its landscape and coastline are among the finest in Europe. Its communities are tight-knit and resilient. Its people are resourceful, independent-minded, and proud of where they come from.

But honesty demands that we acknowledge the problems too.

Average wages in Cornwall sit at roughly 80% of the national figure, yet house prices have been driven far beyond what local earnings can support. Second homes and short-term holiday lets have hollowed out communities that were thriving within living memory. Young people who grew up here — who want to stay here — are leaving because they cannot afford a home or find a career that pays enough to build a life on.

Public services are under severe pressure. GP surgeries are overloaded. Dental provision is in crisis. Social care faces growing demand and inadequate funding. Infrastructure has not kept pace — roads deteriorate, public transport is patchy, and broadband still leaves parts of rural Cornwall disconnected.

None of these problems are unsolvable. But they will not be solved by national parties whose attention drifts to Cornwall only when they need votes. They require sustained, focused work by people who understand this county from the inside.

## Our Principles

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Everything in this manifesto flows from six core commitments. These are not slogans. They are the standards by which we expect to be judged.

**Cornwall First.** Every decision we take is judged by one test: is this good for Cornwall? We have no party line to follow and no national agenda to serve.

**Straight Talking.** We say what we mean. No spin, no jargon, no ducking the hard questions. If we don't know the answer, we'll say so.

**Local Knowledge.** The people who live here understand Cornwall's problems better than any party headquarters. Policy should be shaped by local experience.

**Accountability.** Public money demands public scrutiny. We will push relentlessly for transparent decision-making and proper oversight.

**Fairness.** Cornwall deserves its fair share of national funding and a genuine voice in how that money is spent.

**Community.** Strong communities are built by the people in them. Our job is to support, enable, and listen — not to impose top-down plans.

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# Part One

Local Priorities for Cornwall Council

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## Housing

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Cornwall's housing crisis is not a statistic. It is the young couple who grew up in Camborne and now cannot afford to rent there. It is the teaching assistant in Newquay who drives forty minutes each way because there is nothing she can afford closer to her school.

### **What we will do:**

We will push for strengthened local connection requirements in planning policy. We support effective regulation of the short-term lettings market — proper controls that stop the wholesale conversion of family homes into holiday businesses. New developments must come with infrastructure. Cornwall Council must take a more active role as a housing enabler, working with housing associations and community land trusts.

## Cost of Living

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The cost of living crisis hits Cornwall harder than almost anywhere else in England. Wages here are among the lowest in the country, yet the cost of housing, food, fuel, and energy is no lower.

### **What we will do:**

Press central government for a fairer funding settlement. Use council procurement to support local suppliers. Support community energy schemes. Advocate for fair wages across council contracts and practical support for key workers.

## Jobs and the Economy

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Cornwall's economy is diverse — small businesses, tourism, agriculture, fishing, and a growing creative and technology sector. The goal is sustainable economic growth that benefits the people who live and work here.

**What we will do:**

Invest in infrastructure businesses need: broadband, roads, town centres. Champion stronger partnerships between the council, colleges, and employers. Support Cornwall's existing industries — tourism, farming, and fishing are not relics of the past.

## Health and Social Care

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Adult social care is by far the largest single area of council spending. The decisions Cornwall Council makes directly affect thousands of vulnerable people and their families.

**What we will do:**

Demand adequate government funding for social care. Press for improved mental health services with reduced waiting times. Champion rural access to healthcare. Work with NHS partners to address Cornwall's recruitment crisis with targeted, funded solutions.

## Environment

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Cornwall's natural environment is one of its greatest assets and its most important responsibilities. Protecting this environment is not optional and it is not in conflict with economic growth.

**What we will do:**

Robust protection of designated sites. Cornwall Council must lead by example on emissions and waste. Work with farmers as partners — any transition must come with practical, fully costed support. Support renewable energy where communities have a genuine say.

## Transport

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### **What we will do:**

Year-round, reliable public transport — not just tourist routes. Greater support for community transport. Fix the road maintenance backlog with a preventative approach. Active travel infrastructure as a complement to roads, not a replacement. Campaign for better rail services and fair pricing.

## **Planning and Development**

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### **What we will do:**

Planning decisions that serve communities, not developers. Strengthen neighbourhood plans. Rigorous enforcement of planning conditions. Review permitted development rights around second homes and holiday let conversions. A Local Plan that reflects Cornwall's needs, not Whitehall targets.

## **Education and Skills**

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### **What we will do:**

Stronger post-16 provision linked to real local careers. Partnerships between education and employers. Urgent improvement in SEND provision — every child deserves access to the right education without their parents having to fight for it. Accessible, affordable childcare across the county.

## **Culture, Heritage and Cornish Identity**

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Cornwall has a distinct culture with its own language, history, and identity — recognised through the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. We will support the Cornish language, mining heritage, and local festivals. Cornwall's identity belongs to the people who live here, not to marketing agencies.

## **Governance and Transparency**

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## **What we will do:**

Stronger scrutiny committees with genuine power. Council meetings accessible in person and online. Agendas published in good time. We believe the committee system of governance merits serious consideration for Cornwall.

## **Community Safety**

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Community safety partnerships must reflect local priorities. Rural crime — theft, fly-tipping, agricultural crime — must be taken seriously. Support effective drug and alcohol services. Visible, responsive engagement between the council, police, and communities.

## **Council Finances**

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Press for a fair funding deal. Transparent budgeting with proper scrutiny. Prudent management of reserves and commercial investments. Council tax increases must be justified and proportionate.

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# Part Two

## Cornwall's Voice at Westminster

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CING is fielding parliamentary candidates because Cornwall's interests are not being served by national parties at Westminster. A CING MP would go to Parliament with one job: to fight for Cornwall. No party whip. No leadership ambitions. Just Cornwall.

## A Fair Deal for Cornwall

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Cornwall consistently receives less per head in government funding than comparable areas. The funding formulas systematically disadvantage rural, peripheral areas. A CING MP would make the case for a fair funding formula at every opportunity — in the chamber, in committees, and in direct engagement with ministers.

*"We seek sustainable economic growth and improved job opportunities for Cornish people — backed by a funding formula that recognises rurality, deprivation, and distance."*

## Immigration

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The immigration system is broken. It is unfair to the people trying to use it and to the communities affected. We want a system that actually works and enforces existing immigration law at our national borders. We believe in pragmatic reform, not performative and divisive outrage.

## Cost of Living

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Low-wage areas like Cornwall are squeezed hardest. A CING MP would push for energy policy that works for rural homes and hold the government to account on fair wages, affordable housing, and accessible public services.

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## Health

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Cornwall faces a healthcare recruitment crisis. A CING MP would push for targeted incentives to attract health professionals to rural areas and genuine parity between mental and physical health services — in funding, not just rhetoric.

## Devolution

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Cornwall has a distinctive identity and a strong case for greater control over its own affairs. But devolution is a fundamental constitutional change — it must be decided by the people of Cornwall through a referendum. We will campaign for a fair, informed debate with all pros and cons explained honestly. Then we will respect the result.

## Fishing, Farming and Food Security

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Post-Brexit promises have not been kept. A CING MP would fight for practical support — less red tape, fairer trade deals, and funding that reaches the people who work the land and sea. Food security is national security. Cornwall's fishing ports and farmland are working industries, not heritage attractions.

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# Our Commitment

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We will fight for Cornwall. In the council chamber and, if you send us there, in Parliament. We will be honest about what we can achieve and honest when we fall short. We will judge every issue on its merits, vote according to our conscience and your interests, and never put a party's agenda above Cornwall's needs.

If you are tired of being taken for granted by national parties who remember Cornwall only at election time, stand with us. If you believe that local knowledge and independent thinking matter more than party loyalty, stand with us. If you are willing to serve your community — with no whip, no script, and no obligation to anyone except the people who elected you — come and talk to us.

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*The Cornish Independent NonAligned Group*

*Standing Up for Cornwall*

**[www.cingparty.uk](http://www.cingparty.uk)**