



Falmouth Town Council



FALMOUTH

the spirit of the sea



Falmouth Town Council, Cornwall

Precept £1,637,436. Population c 25,000. Councillors 16. Staff 42.

Voted best place to live in the South West in 2016. A DCLG exemplar for 'Town Team' and Economic Plan. LGA best practice for engaging with devolution. You find the Town Council in the third year of radical and wide ranging change since elections in 2013. It has changed to meet community need in the testing context of austerity, devolution agenda and rapid expansion of our two universities.

Transformed the Council has trebled in output, moving in to new areas of service delivery, and taking the lead in holistic delivery often in collaboration with others.



Third Tranche Devo 2016

2016 is the 3rd year of a four year phased service devolution programme, and sees:

Us taking on the management of statutory services as the agent for others. E.g. Falmouth Library – but not replicating a tired library model. As an integral part of a comprehensive cultural services model encompassing galleries, museums, events, parks and gardens, educational outreach and youth services.

We have saved discretionary services as requested by our community. E.g. CCTV. In a ground-breaking partnership with Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. E.g. external youth services.

Devo 2016

We have provided new services as requested by our community. E.g. Highway weed-spraying or over arching management of town events (including three events of national significance).

We have saved an iconic building and this year repurposed it, using new ways of working, as a true community one-stop hub with a cost neutral funding model. The project helps the Town Council to realise the Cornwall One Public Estate initiative.



Cultural Strategy



Holistic Cultural Delivery

“For us, culture is what we do and how we do it – as individuals, groups and collectively. Our culture is the values we hold: it is what we have in common and what sets us apart. It comes from our history and heritage and our hopes and plans for the future. It is the ordinary and the extraordinary – the everyday encounter and the unique experience. It results in art, sport, architecture, science and technology, parks and gardens, hobbies and pastimes. It can be high culture, popular culture, sub-culture and emerging cultures. It can be commercial activity or subsidized. It can be the dialect we speak, the clothes we wear, the places we visit, the music we listen to, the fun we have, the games we play, our politics and faith. Culture helps us find our way through life. It can be a good thing in itself, as well as promoting understanding, regeneration, enrichment and learning, tourism, and the health of people, our cities and society. Participation in and engagement with cultural activity improves and inspires us, providing meaning to our lives.”

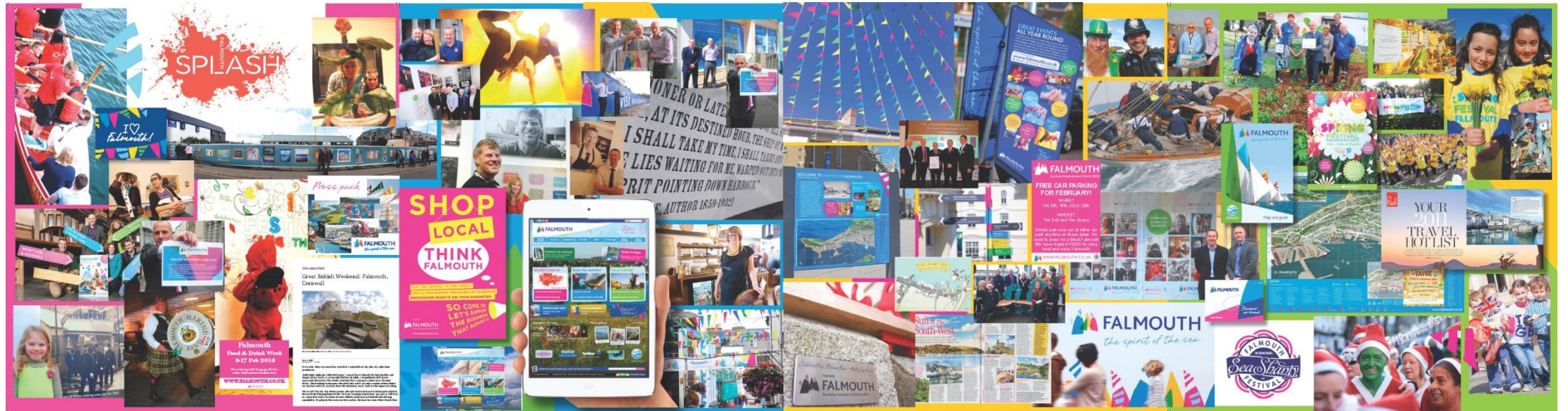
Town Team – ‘Can do’ Approach

Our lauded Town Team has seen the high street re-energised operating under the Town’s ‘Spirit of the Sea’ brand. Delivering town events, Shopwatch, Shopmobility, new partnership working with the Fire Service (CCTV Control Room) etc.

This cross community partnership sees us now with one of the lowest vacancy rates in the UK.

We are in the Final 3 for the Great British High Street in 2016. Please vote for us!

Town Team Projects 2016



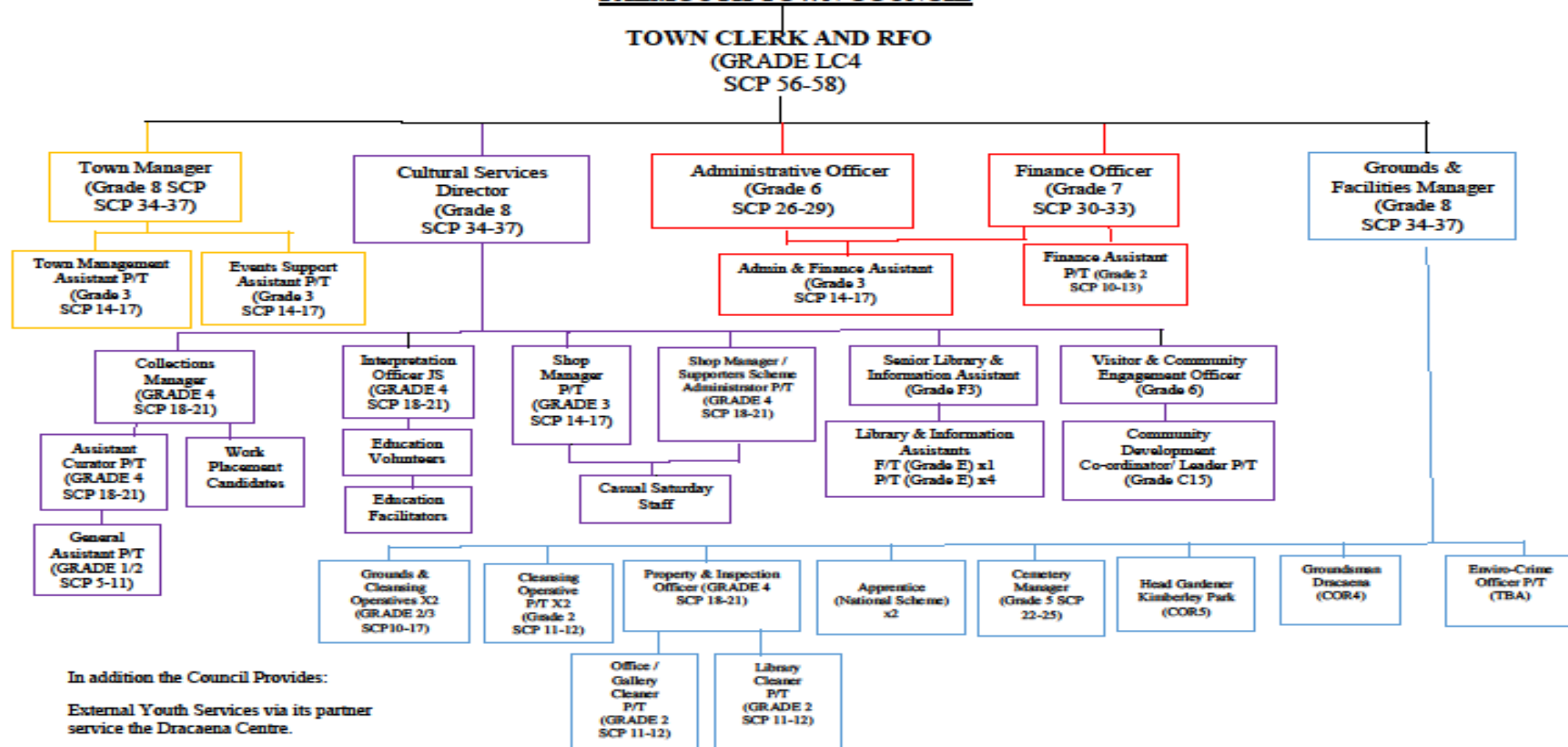
Organisational Change

The Council has had to adapt and manage considerable change, particularly seeing structural growth in both Grounds and Facilities and Cultural Services in 2016, and creating a Senior Management Team.

It has established systems to oversee the delivery through partnership of external youth services, CCTV and town markets.

We have piloted initiatives around Traffic Regulation Orders and Street Closure Orders.

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



In addition the Council Provides:

External Youth Services via its partner service the Dracaena Centre.

Public Realm CCTV in conjunction with its partner Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service.

NB The Council is a National Living Wage accredited employer.

Neighbourhood Planning

Led by the local desire for an Article 4 Direction to better manage the housing stock given the rapid expansion of the universities, the Council have funded and overseen a NP to set a policy context for the development of managed student housing and associated infrastructure to serve the Town until 2030.

<http://planforfalmouth.info/>

The Falmouth Coastal Communities Group have also prepared 'Falmouth 2030' an Economic Plan which has been praised as an effective instrument to support community funding by the DCLG.

Partnership & Volunteering

Across the community we enable and manage volunteering. Again under the 'Spirit of the Sea' brand. It really is reflected in everything we do from destination promotion to the colour of the doors in our public toilets.

Volunteering support is provided in queue busting information service, library services, environmental management, events and festivals.

This year we were successful in SW in Bloom winning Gold and the Portman Cup.



Other Innovations in 2016

Formal evaluation of events and festivals

Devolution of sports pitches

Myriad consultations opportunities

Monitoring of social media

Compulsory training for councillors

Creation of councillor champions

Generic roles for staff

Summary

- Cultural Services Rationalisation
- Town Team
- Event Management
- Environmental Management
- Housing Measures (NP)
- Community One-Stop Hub

Questions?

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