

## **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: TO AVERT A MAJOR PLANNING CATASTROPHE**

### **FORMAL NOTICE OF DEFAULT, FOR THE URGENT ATTENTION OF:**

Kate Kennally, **Chief Executive Officer**

Paul Grant, **Service Director - Finance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer)**

Alice Gunn, **Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

Holly Sykes, **Chief Internal Auditor, Head of Audit & Electoral Services**

**Our electronic correspondence address:** [cornwall@sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk](mailto:cornwall@sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk)

**Our correspondence address:** 'Landithy', 4a Monument Road, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 8HF.

Date 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Sirs & Madams,

### **DEFAULT NOTICE - MAJOR ORGANISATION FAILURES**

**(our REF: CC/001 Cornwall)**

### **RELATING TO: REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

#### **A. ESCALATION & DEFAULT NOTICE**

This is a formal letter notifying you, your board members, Monitoring Officer and Internal Audit of further escalation measures subsequent to our original '**rectification notice**' dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and a '**notice of escalation**' dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. These further escalations include:

- This **notice of default**
- Establishment of a regional **Concerned Citizens Advisory Assembly (CCAA)**

**These escalation measures are necessary to address serious organisational failures and gaps, previously demonstrated and reported** to you, in regard to:

- Advisory (bias, gaps and pre-determination)
- Scrutiny, audit and governance
- Strategic planning processes, rigour and approaches
- Leading to pre-determination and bias in decision making

Left unchecked these issues pose imminent and potentially catastrophic threats to the wellbeing and prosperity of this region and its citizens from your policies, plans and organisation system.

Furthermore, **inappropriate responses and behaviour from your organisation regarding the rectification notice further demonstrates that your organisations systems and culture are unequivocally NOT FIT FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING PURPOSES.** More so, your

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responses not only reinforce the previous findings but **heighten the level of threat and strategic risk** to this region from your organisation and its practices.

Our previous correspondences to you which includes the rectification notice letter and the accompanying 56 page report which is based upon a series of freedom of information inquiries can be found on our website.

### **B. REGIONAL STRATEGIC RISK - WARNING**

Please note that 170 people attending a 'Concerned Citizens Advisory Assembly' endorsed these escalation measures and evaluated the adverse Strategic Risk from your organisation systems at the **highest ranking of 25 = Likelihood is Certain (5) and Impact regionally critical (5) (5 x 5 = 25)**. **The recording of this 1 hour assembly can be viewed on:**

<https://ccadvisoryassembly.co.uk/1-notice>

**We therefore advise you: that this strategic / institutional risk should be elevated and actively included within your emergency planning priorities, audit, advisory and governance systems.**

### **C. RECTIFICATION MEASURES**

We remind you of the rectification suggestions presented to you in the previous two notices. These are explained and qualified through a 56 page report with accompanying videos that can be found on our websites.

To address the organisational failures, strategic risks and deficiencies it is necessary to undertake informed and urgent strategic re-appraisals of:

1. The climate emergency & net-zero policy
2. Council advisory and audit needs
3. An open & independent validation of our report and its findings
4. The emergency planning, capability & execution system
5. Effectiveness of Cornwall Councils advisory, audit, governance and scrutiny system

Suggestions and an initial pathway towards fast-track rectification were previously advised, which include:

- Appointment of an **independent & 'process mature'** inclusion advisor / facilitator
- Engaging advisors with opposing views relating to climate change
- Scenario planning
- Commissioning thorough risk, value, impact and option assessments

**These are necessary and critical precursors to rigorous strategic planning and decision making that then properly inform balanced public / councillor consultation.**

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In addition, and as part of the escalation measures we now confirm the establishment of an independent *Concerned Citizens Advisory Assembly* (CCAA). The primary purpose of the CCAA is to address the short falls in your advisory system, which may be considered as being at the root of your institutional / organisational failure.

### D. PUBLIC DUTY OF CARE

We take this opportunity to remind you that as public servants; you have **a responsibility first and foremost to cause no harm, to act objectively using the best evidence without discrimination, bias or pre-determination solely for the public interest and the needs of the people of Cornwall.** There is a duty of care on public authorities and their officers to consider or think about how their policies, organisation systems and decisions affect the people and the wellbeing of this region.

Informed by this and our previous notice, we trust that you will NOW as a primary council consider engaging independent, non-biased and balanced advisory perspectives in-order to inform ANY AND ALL emergency declarations and supplement strategy making with transparent, rigorous and balanced approaches such as scenario planning. Similarly, we assume that Audit and governance practice, will NOW seek to assure such practices and additionally treat decisions, impact assessments, risk and value management with a heightened degree of impartiality, scrutiny and rigor.

We furthermore expect that Councillors and Scrutiny Committees will be appropriately informed and supported, by your Officers, to act and observe with such a heightened degree of scrutiny. This would include a full strategic re-appraisal of the 'declared climate emergency' together with all related policy and strategy frameworks.

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We affirm that our objective, as a '*concerned citizens movement*', is to inform and support the councils, their officers, councillors and partners. Our intention is to avert an imminent planning and organisation related catastrophe associated with public sector led emergency declarations, strategic planning and execution.


On behalf of the rapidly growing numbers of informed and concerned citizens across this region, we look forward to receiving a mature and properly considered response.

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Signed by seven concerned citizens living in Cornwall:

NOWING  
NICOLA JANE WILLIS

Sm Jamell  
SARAH FARRELL

  
TIM JONES

  
DAVID LATTY

P. Newby.  
PETER A NEWBY

M. Morris  
MAEVE MORRIS

J.V. Hichens  
J.V. HICHENS