



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GORSEDH KERNOW 2027: INITIAL PLANNING UPDATE

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Date: 7th September 2026

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update following the initial planning meeting for Gorsedh Kernow 2027 and to seek approval for key arrangements to support the event.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the outcome of the initial planning meeting for Gorsedh Kernow 2027.
- Approve the establishment of a local Gorsedh Kernow 2027 Working Group to support planning and delivery.
- Approve Liskeard Town Council representation on the Working Group.
- Support the development of a wider programme of Cornish cultural and community activities linked to Gorsedh Kernow 2027.
- Approve the use of Liskeard Public Hall free of charge for Gorsedh Kernow 2027 and associated activities, recognising that the event is being delivered in partnership with Liskeard Town Council.

Background

Liskeard will host Gorsedh Kernow in September 2027. An initial meeting has taken place between representatives of Gorsedh Kernow and Liskeard Town Council to discuss venue requirements, event arrangements and opportunities for community involvement.

Hosting the event presents an opportunity to celebrate Cornwall's language, heritage and culture while showcasing Liskeard's organisations, venues and creative talent.

Progress to Date

Venues

Provisional bookings have been made at Liskeard Public Hall for the main Gorsedh weekend, together with associated set-up and take-down periods.

St Martin's Church has confirmed that it is willing to host the traditional Gorsedh church service on Sunday 5 September 2027.

Castle Park has been identified as the preferred location for the main outdoor ceremony, subject to further operational planning.

Working Group

It is proposed that a local Working Group be established to support planning and delivery of the event.

Membership is expected to include representatives from Liskeard Town Council, community organisations, cultural and heritage groups, churches and other relevant local partners.

The first meeting is expected to take place in October 2026.

Community Programme

There is significant potential to develop a wider programme of Cornish-themed cultural, heritage and community activities in the lead-up to Gorsedh Kernow 2027.

This could include educational projects, exhibitions, performances, creative workshops and links with existing town events and heritage initiatives.

Key Considerations

The Working Group will develop detailed plans in relation to:

- Accessibility
- Transport and parking
- Stewarding and volunteers
- Venue management
- Wet-weather contingencies
- Communications and publicity
- Community participation opportunities

Progress on these matters will be reported back to Council as planning develops.

Financial Implications

The main consideration at this stage relates to the use of Liskeard Public Hall.

As Gorsedh Kernow 2027 will be delivered in partnership with Liskeard Town Council and will provide significant cultural, community and promotional benefits for the town, Members are

asked to consider making the Public Hall available free of charge for the event and associated activities.

Conclusion

The initial planning meeting established a positive framework for cooperation between Gorsedh Kernow and Liskeard Town Council.

Hosting Gorsedh Kernow 2027 presents a significant opportunity to celebrate Cornwall's language, heritage and culture, while raising the profile of Liskeard across Cornwall and beyond.

The next stage is to establish the Working Group and progress detailed planning for the event and associated activities.

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