**PRESS RELEASE**

**“CAMBORNE YOUNGSTERS QUESTION COMMUNITY LEADERS!”**

24th October 2017

Starts…

The youth of Camborne learned what it’s really like to challenge their community leaders at a Youth Conference on Youth Democracy which took place in the Council Chamber at County Hall last Friday 20th October.

The day began when all the Camborne Primary schools and the Camborne International Science Academy attended the impressive event organised by Camborne Regeneration Forum and Cornwall Council’s Community Link Officer, Charlotte Caldwell.

The Question Time panel comprised two Cabinet Members, Cllr Sally Hawken (Portfolio Holder for Children and Well Being) and Cllr Sue James, (Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Public Protection), Joseph Harrison of the Fairtrade Foundation, Cllr Val Dalley Mayor of Camborne, Cllr Judy Davidson, MBE of Redruth Town Council and Cornwall Council’s Service Director Kieran Topping.

The debate was chaired by Richard Williams, retired chief lawyer at Cornwall Council and the questions were far reaching as the youngsters didn’t hold back on challenging the panel with questions such as “What would happen if there wasn’t a Council?” and their views on why the voting age should be lowered to 16 years, which was the favoured result of the debate.

Two key members of Redruth Youth Council spoke eloquently about how they had set up their vibrant Council and explained why they found it helpful to be in charge of their own decisions that the Council takes in respect of young people in its parish.

There was a talk about ethical purchasing by the guest speaker from the Fairtrade Foundation and the day concluded with a behind the scenes tour of New County Hall’s emergency management bunker and a tour of the building – a real insight for the young people of Camborne.

Alan Butterfield, Chairman of Camborne Regeneration Forum said, “we hold a conference annually as we firmly believe that the youth of our town deserve to know about the work of the forum and each year we try and pick a topic that will inspire them!”.

Camborne Regeneration Forum holds an annual Youth Conference – to find out more contact Charlotte Caldwell on email: [charlotte.caldwell@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.caldwell@cornwall.gov.uk)

Ends. (Picture attached.)