

**Cornwall Councillors' Report  
for Saltash Town Council  
March 2021**



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**1. Budget and Council Tax**

It was agreed at Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February that from April the Cornwall Council element of council tax will rise by 1.99%, plus an additional 3% for the Government precept for adult social care – equivalent to an extra £1.52 a week for the average property (band D).

Cornwall's Council's tax rates are currently below the England average, and one of the lowest in the South West. Other upper tier South West councils are also adopting the government's 3% levy for Adult Social Care. But we fully recognise the difficult financial times facing families in Saltash, and the decision to increase Council Tax was made with heavy hearts and after months of intense scrutiny of expenditure and income. To cushion the impact on families least able to afford the increase, we have introduced a fund of £3m available to families entitled to Council Tax Support.

It needs to be stressed, too, that although Cornwall Council faces a reduction in income of more than £30 million as a result of the pandemic, thanks to prudent financial management over recent years, we were still able to set a balanced budget. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting has reported that at least 12 English councils are close to bankruptcy, but Cornwall is not one of them.

In addition to our core services, over the last year Cornwall Council has also tackled the pandemic, delivering food parcels, sourcing PPE, helping high streets and the visitor economy reopen safely, and setting up an enhanced contact tracing service. The pandemic has meant increased numbers of people are in need of care at a time when Council revenue streams, such as lost business rates and a drop in income from car parks, are declining. This comes on top of years of austerity when nationally, councils lost £15 billion in core Government funding between 2010 and 2020. The fact we were able to set a balanced budget is testament to the hard work and integrity of staff, and we would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to them.

The budget sees an extra £16 million a year invested in sustaining social care services for vulnerable and older adults, as well as investment in a new waste service to encourage every resident to recycle more. More than £49m will be spent repairing school buildings, and there is investment of more than £239 million in decent homes for local people. Importantly, Cornwall will continue to lead the fight against the climate emergency, with more than £18 million set aside for green projects such as the Forest for Cornwall and installation of electric vehicle charging points.

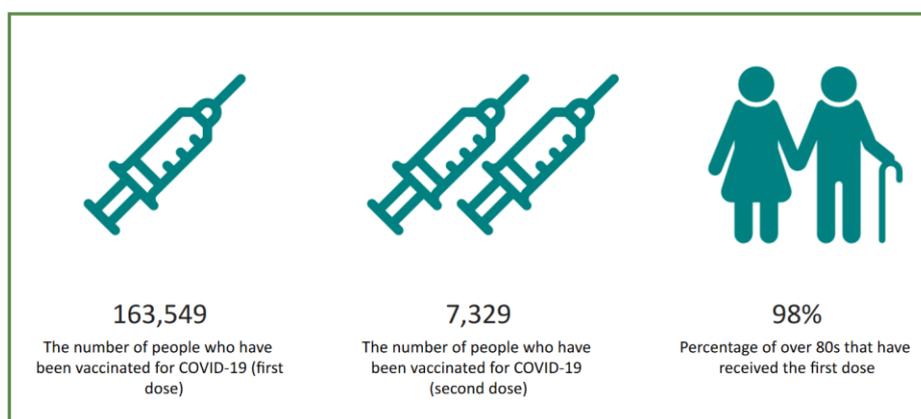
## 2. Covid Update

As of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, the total number of cases recorded in Cornwall stood at 13,537 with 493 deaths.

Week leading to 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb: 138 new cases (493 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: 193 new cases (448 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 9<sup>th</sup> Feb: 326 new cases (404 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: 589 new cases (348 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan: 1,184 new cases (254 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec: 95 new cases (227 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: 175 new cases (213 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct: 78 new cases (210 deaths in total)  
Week leading to 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept: 5 new cases (210 deaths in total)

7-day rate on 23<sup>rd</sup> February = 42.3 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 16<sup>th</sup> February = 71 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 9<sup>th</sup> February = 101.1 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 2<sup>nd</sup> February = 176.1 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 28<sup>th</sup> January = 183.3 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 21<sup>st</sup> January = 278.8 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 12<sup>th</sup> January = 338.9 per 100,000  
7-day rate on 21<sup>st</sup> November = 90 per 100,000

Vaccination data for Cornwall as of 23<sup>rd</sup> February:



The dedicated email address for questions about Covid vaccines in Cornwall: [nhskernelnowccg.ciosc19vaccine@nhs.net](mailto:nhskernelnowccg.ciosc19vaccine@nhs.net)

## 3. Climate Emergency Development Plan - Consultation

The final six-week consultation on Cornwall Council's Climate Emergency planning document started on 26th Feb and will run until 5pm on 16th April. It's the last chance to comment on the policies before they are submitted to the Secretary of State.

The 63-page document is an important part of Cornwall Council's plans to address climate change. Cornwall Council was one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency, back in January 2019, and we recognised that planning is an important part of the solution to improve housing and infrastructure, making sure that our children and grandchildren have a Cornwall where they will be able to live, work and thrive.

Our aim is to become carbon neutral by 2030, but this needs the combined effort of everyone in Cornwall, including Town and Parish Councils, businesses, residents and visitors. Once adopted, this document will be used alongside the Cornwall Local Plan to make decisions on planning applications across Cornwall.

Topics covered are: Natural Climate Solutions; Agriculture and Rural Issues; One Planet Development; Town Centre Design; Sustainable Transport; Renewable Energy; Sustainable Energy and Construction; and Coastal Change and Flooding.

Visit Cornwall Council's website to download the DPD, view the evidence used to prepare it, and for details on how to respond. Go to [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk) then enter 'Climate DPD' in the search facility.

Please send an email to [climateemergencydpd@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:climateemergencydpd@cornwall.gov.uk) if you wish to book a place at one of the following virtual sessions on the DPD:

16 March 3.30pm – 5pm  
18 March 2pm – 3.30pm

17 March 12.30pm – 2pm  
19 March 1.30pm – 3pm

#### **4. Planning Portal**

Cornwall Council's interactive online guide to planning applications has been updated and relaunched. The Day in the Life of a Planning Application tool details every step of the planning process, from an initial idea and how to get advice before submitting an application, to submission, the decision process, and final completion of a project.

It was developed by the Cornwall Planning Partnership – which is made up of representatives from town and parish councils, Cornwall Council and the Cornwall Association of Local Councils – alongside officers in the Council's planning team.

Visit Cornwall Council's planning advice and guidance webpage to use the tool and find other information on planning. Go to [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk) then enter 'Planning' in the search facility.

#### **5. Housing**

Cornwall Council has delivered on the target we set ourselves of providing 1,000 new homes in Cornwall, with the 1,000th home completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> February in Penzance.

Some homes are for social rent and shared ownership in the Housing Revenue Account, which is what used to be known as council housing. 112 new homes have been built in the HRA since 2017, and Cornwall Council is in contract to deliver a further 144, with 21 in the planning system. Other homes are for secure long-term market rent or for open market sale through our partnership company, Treveth.

But with 12,000 families on the Cornwall Homechoice register looking for a home, the need is still acute and real, so Cornwall Council has committed to an ambitious programme of providing over 1,700 new affordable homes by March 2028, mainly for social rent and shared ownership.

## **6. Rough Sleepers**

Since March last year, 168 single people in Cornwall who would otherwise have ended up sleeping rough have been offered a safe place to stay.

Cornwall Council is using funding from the Cold Weather Fund to offer emergency accommodation in places like local Travelodges. This is not ideal, especially since there are no cooking facilities in a Travelodge, but at least people are being given somewhere warm and being protected from the virus. Whenever someone is offered accommodation in a Travelodge contact will be made with the local Foodbank to help support the client's food needs.

If you have concerns about someone you see sleeping rough, please contact StreetLink by visiting [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) or by phoning 0300 500 0914.

Cornwall Council will coordinate an outreach team within 24 hours of receiving a report from StreetLink, and will try to locate the person sleeping rough to offer support. This will include finding them safe emergency accommodation, working with them to assess their immediate needs and engaging with them to discuss underlying issues that may be contributing to them sleeping rough.

## **7. Education Business Partnership**

Cornwall Council's Education Business Partnership (EBP) supports young people to develop employability and enterprise skills, helping them make realistic but ambitious plans for their future. EBP remains committed to delivering motivational programmes to broaden the horizons of young people in Cornwall and raise their awareness of employment opportunities. The success of its approach has led to Cornwall being in the highest percentage nationally for participation in work experience.

EBP's programmes and activities include management of the Work Experience Scheme for Schools and acting as a key partner in the Ambitions Project, which helps unemployed and economically inactive 15 – 24 year olds explore their skills and career aspirations. EBP manages the Nuffield STEM Research placements, and organises careers education events, including speed networking with employers, interview training and money management.

The Platinum Provider Award has been developed over several years, and is Cornwall Council's quality framework to encourage employers to develop a work experience scheme for schools and young people that provides a structured, meaningful experience.

Anyone interested in signing up to the Work Experience Scheme for Schools or in supporting Cornwall's young people in developing employability skills is invited to contact EBP at [ebp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:ebp@cornwall.gov.uk) or 01209 615070.

**Councillor Hilary Frank**

**Councillor Derek Holley**

**Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd**

**Councillor Sam Tamlin**