

## Report to Saltash Town Council January 2026

Cllr. Hilary Frank



### BUDGET

As one of the largest unitary councils in the country, Cornwall Council has a gross budget of around £1.6 billion. We considered the budget for the next financial year at our Cabinet meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The budget documents can be found here:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 17th December, 2025, 10.00 am - Cornwall Council](#)

As well as the Budget for 2026/27, at the time of the Cabinet meeting, we were able to set a three-year budget. This was a major turning point for Cornwall Council, giving us stability and allowing us to plan ahead. A questionnaire has now opened on the budget proposals and can be found on the Let's Talk Cornwall website: [Budget Proposals Questionnaire | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)

Since the Cabinet meeting, however, the details of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement have been released, and it seems that the Government's proposed distribution approach for the Fair Funding Allocation has materially changed from the Fair Funding Review consultation. The government's stated aim that "Our reforms will take into account the different needs and costs faced by communities across the country, including adjusting for the costs of remoteness faced by rural communities" has no longer been met, and initial assessment suggests that we will be receiving £13 million less than originally suggested under the Fair Funding Review Consultation. We are now engaged in trying to assess how further savings can be made, but £13 million is a painful gap.

### PENDING ISSUES

These are the matters that will always feature in my report until there are positive outcomes:

- **VICTORIA GARDENS**

The new railings were actually installed in December!

- **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT**

The promised meeting with Cllr. Dan Rogerson, Portfolio Holder for Transport, took place in January.

- **ADULT EDUCATION**

Following the meeting between STC and Cornwall Council in October, Cornwall Council has conducted a procurement exercise, and as a result has allocated over £315K to enhance learning provision in the South East Cornwall area. We are now proceeding to contract with two providers who will be responsible for delivering these services

So... the first two off can be taken off 'Pending Issues', but I will continue to work on matters regarding Adult Education including the need to co-ordinate with Babcock to ensure that the provision can be aligned with the needs that will arise out of the £4.4 billion investment into Devonport.