

## **Cornwall Councillor's Report - Cllr. Hilary Frank**

### **Draft Council Business Plan Published**

Cabinet has published a draft business plan and budget for the next financial year as part of the papers for a meeting of Cabinet on 8th December.

The proposals would see Cornwall Council's share of Council Tax charge rise by 1.99%, plus an additional 1% for the Government's adult social care precept.

In the documents, it states that: 'When the Council set last year's Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2021-25, we knew that the impact of Covid-19 would have a legacy impact on our finances, but we were unsure as to exactly what that impact would be. The Council continued to receive one-off Covid grants from central Government during 2021/22 to cover loss of income and some expenditure which certainly helped, but this was not enough to cover all of our losses and we estimate the balance of unfunded losses to be £5.7m.'

It goes on to say that "Our total resources for 2022/23 are forecast to increase by £37.8m (net of reserve movements), subject to the Government's Local Government Finance Settlement, which is due to be published before Christmas. The overall increase in our resources is not sufficient to fund the £92.7m financial pressures the local authority faces and therefore results in a savings requirement of £55m for 2022/23... At the time of writing, savings amounting to £53.2m have been identified... Further work will be undertaken over the coming weeks to close the budget gap and bring forward a balanced budget for 2022/23."

Some of the savings will come from staff reductions. It has been confirmed, for example, that the number of Community Link Officers will be reduced from 17 to 11.

The full documents can be accessed by viewing the documents for the Cabinet meeting.

## **Leisure Centres**

The Leisure Centre Petition received over 5,000 responses, and as such was added to the agenda for Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Chairman allocated a time of 15 minutes for discussion on the topic, and within that time each Group Leader was given 3 minutes to put forward a statement. The only decisions taken by Full Council were to thank residents for the petition, and to take no further action.

The results of the survey, which received over 4,700 responses, have not yet been published. We are given to understand that officers are preparing a report for the meeting of Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Cornwall Music Education Hub**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November Cornwall Councillors in Saltash were copied into an email that Andy Rance of Livewire sent to members of Cornwall Council's Cabinet. In the email, he said that he had been made aware that Cornwall Council would be closing the Cornwall Music Education Hub on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and highlighted the negative impact this would have on young people.

This was the first time the three Saltash-based Cornwall Councillors had heard of this move.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, though, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, Cllr. Barbara Ellenbroek, announced in a Press Release that because of "a rise in demand for frontline services such as adult social care, Cornwall Council is unable to continue maintaining the CEMH in its current format," and that they are looking to identify a new provider.

Worryingly, staff at the Cornwall Music Education Hub seem to have been given redundancy warning notices some days ago.

## **Cornwall Outdoors Service**

In a press release on 26th November, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, Cllr. Ellenbroek, said: “There is no statutory obligation for Cornwall Council to provide outdoor learning,” and launched a ‘consultation’ about the future of the Cornwall Outdoors service, which provides opportunities for outdoor education and learning to schools and youth groups from sites at Delaware, Carnyorth, Porthpean, and a summer camp at Pelistry on the Isles of Scilly.

The consultation is available on <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cornwall-outdoors> with a closing date of 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### **To end on a positive note:**

I have now undertaken the training to act as a Group Co-ordinator for Community Speedwatch. Over the next few weeks, we will be reviewing the Speedwatch sites and then recruiting others to join the Group. Please get in touch if you are interested.