

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



### Draft Budget 2022/23 Published

The Cabinet's draft budget has been published, and will be debated at a meeting of Cabinet on 9th February. If approved, it will then go on to be debated at Full Council on 22nd February.

The draft budget includes plans to make 'savings' (cuts!) of more than £53 million, and a proposal to increase Cornwall Council's share of Council Tax charge by 1.99%. Together with the additional 1% for the Government's adult social care precept, this will be a total rise of 2.99%, which is the equivalent of a 96p per week increase for an average band D property.

### **The Financial Context of the Draft Budget**

Local government as a whole is facing significant financial challenges with a number of authorities issuing Section 114 notices. (These are issued when the Chief Finance Officer of a council considers that the Council does not have a balanced budget or the imminent prospect of one. If a S114 Notice is issued it means that no new expenditure will be permitted, with the exception of statutory services.)

The Local Government Association recently reported that local services will cost at least £8bn more by 2024, and Cornwall currently has a shortfall of funding for Covid spend / loss of income in the region of £6.5million in 2022/23. On top of this, there is no confirmation as yet from central government about when funding reforms will be implemented, or what shape they will take.

Draft budget proposals in December showed a budget gap of £1.8m for 2022/23. Since then, additional resources have been awarded through the Finance Settlement, and further savings have been brought forward. There is now a one-off balance of £6.4m, and the proposal is to create a new Financial Sustainability Reserve. The proposed new Reserve will give the Council's Chief Finance Officer discretion to smooth the in-year budget in the event of a budget pressure.

£18 million of savings will come from cutting staff costs and workforce reduction; £25 million through contract and third-party reductions; and £9 million from reprofiling the council's capital programme, £45 million will be invested into Adult Social Care.

The full budget documents can be accessed by viewing the documents for the Cabinet meeting on Cornwall Council's website.

### Community Link Officer

All Community Link Officers have had to 'apply' for their jobs as part of the major 'downsizing' in Cornwall Council staff which has seen the number of CLOs reduced from 19 to 11. I'm relieved and delighted to report that Catherine Thomson, our excellent Community Link Officer, has been confirmed in post. With the reduction in CLO numbers, though, she will have an enlarged area to look after, and it hasn't yet been confirmed where that area will be.

## **St Barnabas**

A report on 'Estate Transformation' that was debated at Cornwall Council's Customer and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on 25th January included reference to releasing the leaseholds at Saltash Methodist Church, Belle Vue and St Barnabas Hospital. This led to a flurry of emails from concerned residents. Officers have given assurances that this means only that at some stage in the future, when suitable premises have been secured, staff who are currently working out of St. Barnabas, Belle Vue and Saltash Wesley will be moved into different venues that are more suitable.

There are five 'tranches' in the Estate Transformation programme. Saltash is in Tranche 2. Currently, just two of the five towns in Tranche 1 have progressed to the stage where overall design and layouts have been provided, so unless there is a change in circumstances any 'transformation' to the estate that Cornwall Council owns in Saltash is not imminent.

I've contacted the NHS asking when we can expect the workshops looking at the future of St Barnabas to start up again, but the response is that all their resources are still committed to coping with the pandemic, and they couldn't give me a date.

## **30 minutes for Parking Bays on Fore Street**

The emergency legislation made in May 2020 to temporarily introduce emergency procedures for temporary traffic orders has now come to an end.

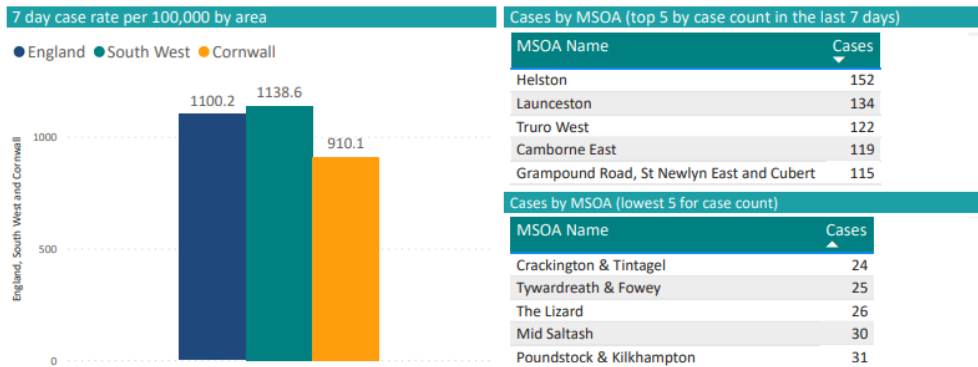
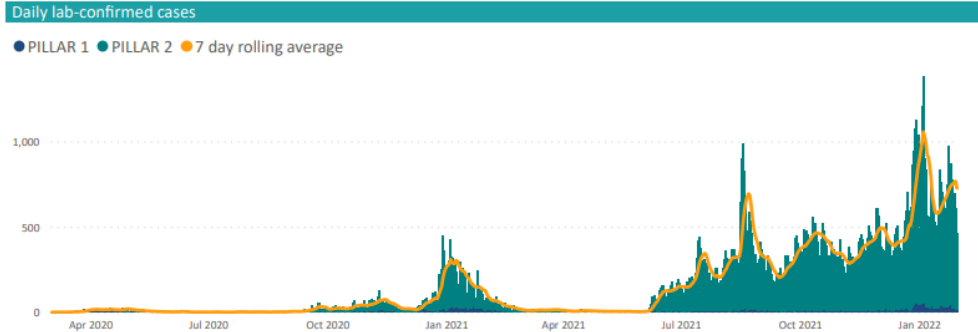
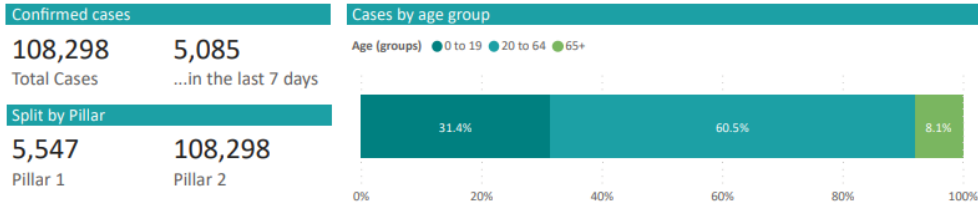
The end of this Covid legislation brings an end to the extended temporary order for parking on Fore Street, and from 15th February the parking limit in the Fore Street bays will revert to 30 minutes.

## **Tresorys Kernow**

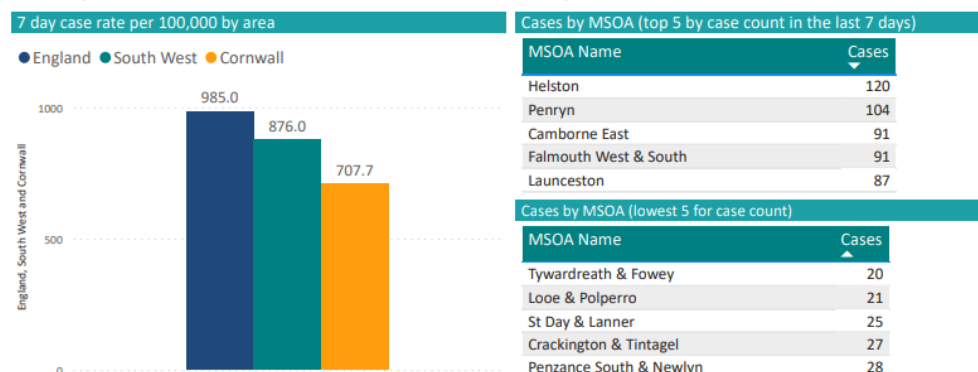
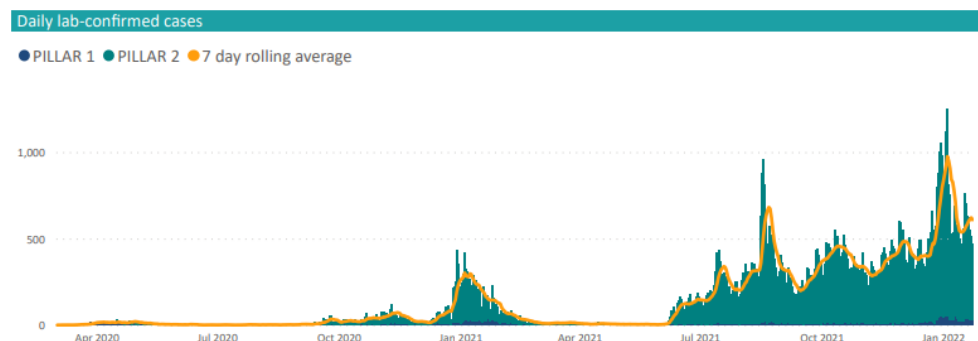
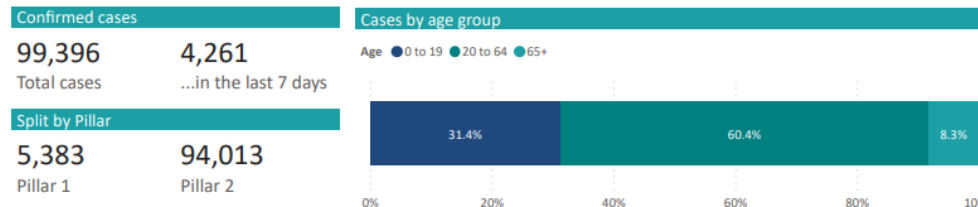
Cornwall Council has been awarded some funding through the Community Renewal Fund, and a partnership between Cornwall Museums Partnership and Creative Kernow has been selected as part of this funding to deliver a project called Tresorys Kernow (Cornish Treasure). Tresorys Kernow aims to help communities deliver a programme within their town centre celebrating arts and heritage, supporting post-Covid recovery, and helping towns adapt to the climate emergency.

Saltash is one of 10 Tresorys Kernow towns, and £20,000 has been allocated to spend here. A wide range of residents, local business owners, artists and community groups came to the drop-in session that was held in Saltash on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The Tresorys Kernow team is pulling together the views and ideas from that drop-in session to form criteria specific to Saltash, and a call for Saltash groups, businesses and individuals to submit their ideas for specific projects will be made in the next couple of weeks.

## Covid Statistics

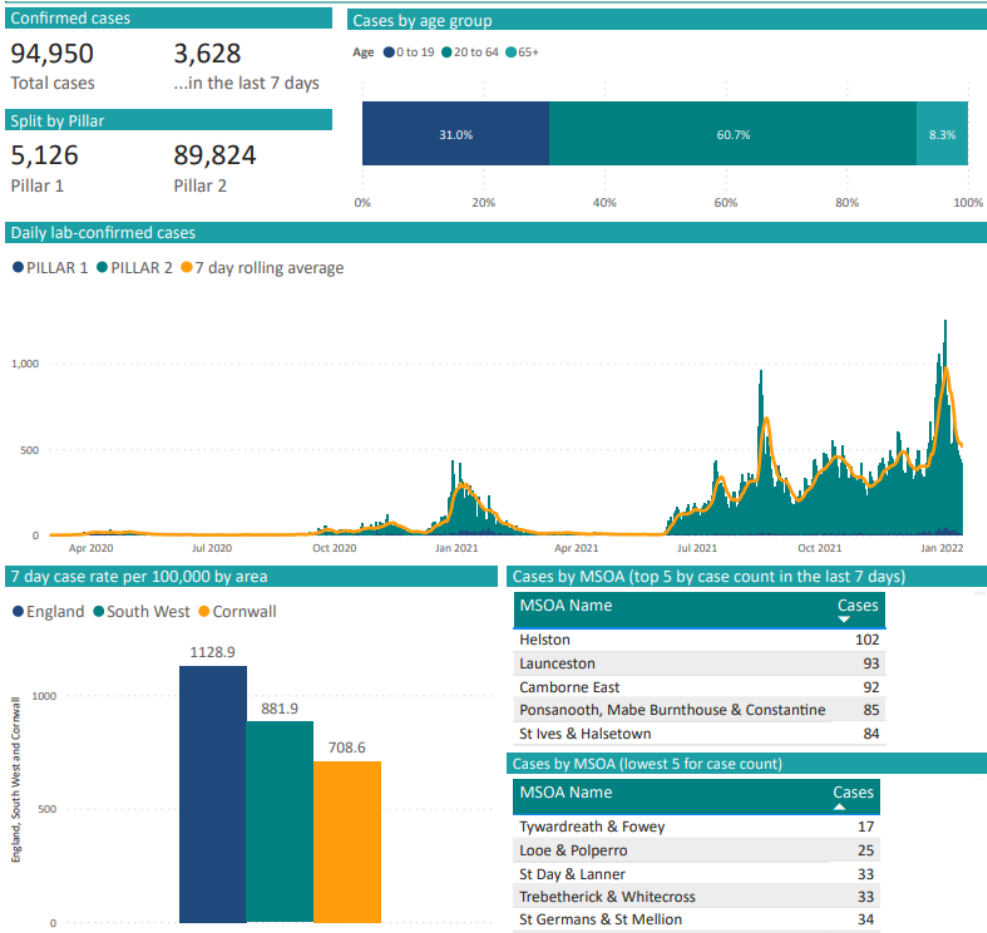


1<sup>st</sup> February:  
Total of 766  
Covid deaths  
confirmed in  
residents of  
Cornwall



25<sup>th</sup> January  
Total of 755  
Covid deaths  
confirmed in  
residents of  
Cornwall

18th January  
Total of 749  
Covid deaths  
confirmed in  
residents of  
Cornwall



11th January  
Total of 745  
Covid deaths  
confirmed in  
residents of  
Cornwall

