

Report Looe Town Council February 2018

Cornwall Council Budget

Cornwall Council's Cabinet approved a revised Council Tax level for 2018/19 at 4.99%. This followed the final settlement received yesterday from central government where additional one-off funding of £2.5m was allocated to Cornwall.

Cornwall Council's Leader Adam Paynter said that the additional funding, made up of £1.7m for Adult Social Care and £0.7m for delivering services in a rural area, has enabled the Cabinet to now propose a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept, rather than the 3% rise originally proposed in November, by passporting all the one off funding on to Adult Social Care.

Deputy Leader and cabinet member for resources Julian German outlined the revised four-year Budget proposals to deliver a balanced budget that will see vulnerable adults and children receive more support, significant investment in a capital programme to generate future growth and jobs, building more homes to meet local demand and continued maintenance of roads and public transport services.

The proposed budget will:

- Protect vulnerable children, adults and families with a 10% increase in funding for Adult Social Services and a 5% increase to children and family services
- Continue 100% retention of business rates in Cornwall, generating an additional £8m as the number of businesses grow
- Reduce fuel poverty, helping over 1,100 homes to stay warmer for less
- Provide extra provision for care leavers who will now receive additional support with their council tax
- Provide £1.2m to Citizens Advice Cornwall over four years so the service can provide continued support and advice to residents
- Bring long term empty properties into use by charging a 100% council tax premium from April 2019
- Invest over £800m through the capital programme in new and improved housing, major highways and transportation links and projects supporting economic growth
- Provide capital investment to build 1,000 homes, and help grow the economy, jobs and choice for local people
- Give residents more influence in local decision making by providing more support for localism and community network panels, including an allocation of £1m per year to determine local Highway capital works
- Provide the Foundation Living Wage for Council staff and all Council contracts which will help support the local economy by boosting local wages
- Ensure continued support for those in need with paying their Council tax bills.

To deliver a balanced budget, this will mean general council tax will be set at 2.99% for 2018/19 – a rise of 63p per week for a Band B property.

This is in addition to a revised proposal 2% increase on council tax for adult social care, which is in line with the Government's policy of asking local taxpayers to help fund social care demands.

The total increase will be 4.99%. For a Band B property, this means that the Cornwall Council element of council tax per week will rise by £1.04.

The proposals will allow Citizens Advice Cornwall offices and support services for vulnerable residents to be kept open, allow the Council to keep investment in highways at the same

level, keep evening weekend bus routes running and continue to subsidise post 16 transport options – all services which residents and members said they did not want to see reduced. Alongside this, the Council will further streamline operations to make £77m savings over four years, including:

- Transforming Adult Social Care, saving £34m by making the system more efficient, for example by ensuring that the right care package is identified from the start
- Saving £16m through better workforce management and a reduction in posts of up to 200
- Rationalising the Council's property portfolio to reduce running costs and generate income of approx. £1.2m
- Maximising investment returns by an additional £1m
- Investing £18m in digital services so that residents can access Council services more easily online as well as improving IT to reduce overhead costs.

Fairer funding for Cornwall

As central government funding for Cornwall Council continues to decline and there is a widening gap between funding for rural and urban authorities, calls are being made for local businesses and residents to #StandUpForCornwall and fight for fairer funding allocations. The [Fair Funding #StandUpForCornwall](#) campaign calls for more equitable government funding for Cornwall with data showing people in Cornwall receive on average £264 per head (25%) per year less funding than those in inner London.

Cornwall Council Leader Adam Paynter said the Council has an important role to play in lobbying government for fairer funding with the goal to unlock £39 million for the county, providing an extra £71 for services per resident every year.

“Over the last five years we have gained additional freedoms and flexibilities on how we receive and spend our money due to the Cornwall Devolution Deal. We've been at the forefront of initiatives such as 100% business rates retention and we benefitted significantly from EU funding. However, the landscape is now rapidly changing.

“While we have always managed to deliver a balanced budget, it is becoming more difficult to balance the increasing demand for local services against the reducing level of funding we receive from central government – which is significantly less than many comparable county councils.

“Since 2010, we have delivered savings totalling £300 million, which have involved some very difficult decisions affecting local services. By 2021, our total savings will have risen to £377 million. But it's not enough.

“We are pleased this government is committed to genuine consultation on this, and there has never been a better moment for the people of Cornwall to make their voices heard. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, is due to publish the Government's long awaited review of local authority funding to consider the way the formula is calculated and how, if at all, it should change.

“We need to make sure that Cornwall's voice is heard during Sajid Javid's critical decision-making process on funding allocations, which is why I'm calling on the people of Cornwall to make a stand.

“We are working incredibly hard to manage the severe financial pressures but we need to ensure the Government's funding formula provides a fair deal for residents and puts us in a stronger position to protect frontline services as much as possible.”

You can show your support for the Fair Funding #StandUpForCornwall campaign on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) or by [signing a pledge of support](#).

Cornwall Council divisional boundary review

This is the second electoral review to take place in Cornwall since the creation of the unitary council in 2009. In 2013 there were some minor that saw Lanteglos Parish added to my Looe West division, but this review is a whole change. The current changes will not come into effect until the 2021 Cornwall Council elections.

The Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) visited Cornwall on 30 March 2016. They gave presentations on the electoral review to Parish and Cornwall Councillors and issued guidance.

The electoral review examined Cornwall Council's electoral arrangements and covered the following areas:

- ~ the total number of members to be elected to the Council;
- ~ the number and boundaries of future electoral divisions;
- ~ the number of councillors representing each electoral division; and
- ~ the name of each electoral division.

A principal aim of the review was to deliver electoral equality across the local authority. It aimed to do this by ensuring that all councillors represent a similar number of voters, on average 5163 per division, based on the 2023 electorate forecasts. The Commission allows a tolerance of $\pm 10\%$ from this average, which means the electorate range is 4,647 to 5,679. The building blocks for creating the electoral divisions will be polling districts. These are small areas used for electoral purposes and in each polling district we have an identified number of electors.

In exceptional circumstances where there is a sound justification, the Commission will allow this range to be exceeded. However, we needed to remember that the further away from the average we are the greater the risk of electorate inequality occurring sooner and triggering another electoral review. Currently the Looe West division (division 74) has 4000 voters and Looe East (division 76) 3200.

The new number of voters will mean 5300 for Looe West (+4%) and 5500 for Looe East (+6%)

The LGBCE is required by law to be impartial, with its decisions based on evidence and reason.

There were no pre-conceived views on the future number of councillors for Cornwall Council. The LGBCE considered proposals for an increase, a decrease, or retention of the existing number of councillors.

People may think it's a good idea to have fewer councillors but it will mean their councillor will be serving a bigger area and will have less time for them. I don't believe the LGBC took into account the scattered and rural nature of Cornwall where public transport is hit and miss.

Following the edict to make the reduction the commission asked people in Cornwall for their views on where the new boundaries should be in time for the changes to take effect at the local elections in 2021.

The quango said it needed information from people and groups across Cornwall to help it to produce a new pattern of divisions to accommodate 87 councillors. The council embarked on a comprehensive study of how the boundaries could be redrawn to accommodate the new number and asked local people and organisations for their help to draw up new ward boundaries across Cornwall.

New pattern of divisions were drawn up to accommodate 87 councillors and this came to a head yesterday when Full Council agreed on the final division make up.

The final proposal was after intensive work by officers and member totalling 42 separate Council meetings, public meetings and extensive consultation.

This consultation closes on 19 February 2018 so there is still a chance to have your say or submit your own representations.

So what does this mean for Looe and surrounding parishes.

Currently Looe West included Lansallos and Lanteglos Parishes (Polperro, Talland, Lansallos, Trenewan, Polruan and Bodinnick) and East Looe plus St Martins Parish.

The proposals agreed yesterday will mean that Pelynt will be added to Looe West and Deviock and Dobwalls and Trewidland and Morval added to East Looe.

Here is a link to the new maps.

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/.../Appendix%203%20Detailed...>

Local Governance Reviews

The LGBCE has limited powers to make recommendations about the electoral arrangements of city, parish and town councils that might be directly affected by changes to electoral division boundaries in Cornwall. The process for reviewing town and parish boundaries will commence shortly. Several town and parishes have already requested local governance reviews. This process is likely to be led by myself as Neighbourhoods portfolio holder.

This could include recommendations for:

- the need for parish wards;
- the number and boundaries of any parish wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected from any parish ward; and
- the name of any parish wards.

This is a chance to amend any anomalies in parish boundaries and names.

New Highways and Drainage reporting system

A new online reporting system has been developed and is now live. Its based on a mapping system so rather than trying to describe the location you can pin point it on a map. The other advantage is that updates are provided and you can track the progress of a complaint even if you didn't report it.

The following reports can be logged and tracked online.

Abandoned vehicle

- [Bridges and structures](#) (damaged bridges, retaining walls or structures)
- [Fences or barriers](#) (damaged safety barriers or fences on the highway)
- [Footpaths, bridleways or byway problems](#)
- [Grit bin](#) (damaged or unusable grit bins)
- [Hedges and verges](#) (overgrown hedges, verges or trees)
- [Highway electrical fault](#)
- [Manholes](#) (broken or rocking manholes or drain covers)
- [Minor flooding and blocked drains](#)
- [Mud, debris or spillage on a road](#)
- [Pothole](#)
- [Road markings, signs and bollards](#) (damaged or missing road sign, road marking or bollard)
- [Road surfaces](#) (issues with roads, including large areas of uneven surface, depressions, trench failure, edge deterioration, crazing or crumbling road surface)
- [Street furniture](#) (damaged or missing benches and seats, planters, bus shelters and street furniture)

- [Streetlights](#)
- [Street works problem](#)

White substance in water Hannafore

A few weeks ago a white substance was seen emitting from the Highways drain. A resident kindly collected a sample for analysis which I supplied to the Environment Agency.

Below is the report that came back.

Dear Edwina

At our last bathing water meeting in Looe you gave me a water sample from West Looe that was taken during a pollution incident reported to the Environment Agency on 27th Nov 2017.

Here are the results from the sample.

INVESTIGATION IN CATCHMENT

The bacteria levels suggest that the grey/white effluent reported was likely to have been discharge water from a domestic washing machine. Unfortunately we have not been able to find the source of this effluent but will visit the site of the pollution during our pre-season checks in April to see if we can get more information. In terms of risk to bathing water quality this would be a relatively minor source unless the discharge increased in size considerably. We will still follow it up though. If you have any other information that would help us in our investigations then please let me know.

Devolved Highways budgets to Community Network areas

AS part of the strengthening and empowering of the 19 community network areas across Cornwall Cabinet had agreed to devolve a proportion of the Local Transport Plan budget to be spent on local highways issues. Safety issues will still be dealt with separately. £1m has been set aside per annum over 4 years ie £4m over the life of the administration, for small scale highways schemes in the local area. eg community speed watch initiatives, speed visors, dropped kerbs, additional drain maintenance. In addition a Traffic Regulation Order will be funded per network for issues that are common across the area. As there will be a vote for each Cornwall Councillor and for each parish council its important that Looe Town Council has an attending representative.

- Prioritisation process - Each Community Network Panel (CNP) will be asked to review the current list of proposed local schemes for its Community Network Area (CNA). It will be asked to indicate which schemes should be deleted because they are no longer a local priority, which to retain and which to amend. CORMAC's Highway & Environment Managers will give technical guidance to the CNPs at this stage.

Before the list is submitted to the CNP, Cornwall Council Members in each CNA are recommended to hold a meeting to review the list and carry out an initial "sense check", with the support of CORMAC as above.

Each CNP will also have the opportunity to indicate any new schemes it considers should be added to the list. Where it wishes to do this, it will be asked to focus on describing the problem and the desired outcome of any changes, rather than detailing a solution. This is to ensure that further consideration targets that outcome and avoid the risk of pre-judging a solution which may not deliver that outcome. The CNP will also be asked to indicate how the scheme meets Connecting Cornwall (Local Transport Plan) objectives.

West Looe May Fayre

- Plans for the west Looe May Fayre on 5th May are well advanced. We are pleased to welcome a new volunteer to our organising team, Julie Simmons who will be our treasurer and deal with a lot of the practical issues.
- We have already chosen our May Queen who is Tiede Gibson who is an active member of Sheila's School of Dancing.
- If members know of a business, group or organisation that would like to have a stall or advert in the programme please email edwinahannaford@btconnect.com or message from the facebook event.
- I would be grateful for the support of councillors to steward the processional from 10.30 - 11am.

May Fayre Quiz Night Fundraiser

- We are also organising a fundraiser on 6th April at 7.30pm in the Portbyhan Hotel. I wonder if the council would submit a team. We have added 'construction' table challenges this time.

Cllr Edwina Hannaford
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