

## Saltash Town Council becomes 'living wage employer'

Saltash Town Council has adopted a resolution to become a 'living wage employer', which means that from 1<sup>st</sup> April all of its staff will be paid at least £7.85 per hour. The council is also committed to ensuring that all contracted staff receive at least the minimum wage for work on council land or premises when contracts come up for renewal.

The living wage is calculated annually by the Living Wage Foundation, according to the basic cost of living in the UK. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis.

Saltash Town Council's Staffing Committee considered adopting the wage as part of its annual review of staff pay, and recommended to full council that the council raise the salaries of staff to ensure that all staff receive at least the living wage whilst fair differences in pay are retained to reflect different levels of responsibilities.

In moving the motion acting Chairman of Staffing Councillor Adam Killeya explained that a handful of staff would be directly affected by the council's decision to pay the living wage, and would receive the largest increase in pay, but that all staff would receive some pay rise as part of the knock on effects.

Mayor of Saltash Councillor Jean Dent said "We are very mindful of our duty to spend public money responsibly, but we are also mindful of our responsibility to be a good employer, to care about the standard of living in our community, and to set a good example"

Councillor Dent added "We believe that we are one of the first town councils in Cornwall to make this move, and are very pleased to be setting this example".

### Notes:

1. Saltash Town Council employs 2 full time and 9 part time staff. 5 of these staff were previously paid below the living wage. From 1<sup>st</sup> April the lowest paid staff will be paid above £7.85 per hour and all staff will receive a substantive pay increase.
2. Further information can be found on the Living Wage Foundation website <http://www.livingwage.org.uk>