

Date:02.03.2017

Agenda No. 10

**Cornwall council report for Saltash Town Council
February 2017**

The Cornwall council budget has been set and passed. The council tax for the coming year will raise £260 million. This includes an increase of 1.97% for the councils own purposes and an additional 2% to be spent solely on adult social care as per the government's wishes. This is equivalent to a band D charge of £1398.

Countywide devolution plans are said to be proceeding satisfactorily.

There have been various consultations and meetings about the implications both positive and negative of Brexit for the County. Because of the importance of the agricultural sector considerable weight has been put in to making representations to the government about the urgent need to replace or otherwise ameliorate the impact of the end of the single payment system for individual farmers.

The counties new St Dennis incinerator or EFW (energy-from-waste) project, as it is sometimes known, is in the last phase of testing. Some estimates indicate a starting date for July.

Jim McKenna has resigned from his post as Cabinet member in charge of adult social care to take up the position of chief executive for the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust. The post will not be filled until after the election.

The cabinet have decided not to change car park charges for the coming year and have said that they will re-consult in the autumn. The leader has written to me saying that it was because of the numerous objections received about the new charges.

Saltash Town Council may wish to take an opinion on and make representations supporting or opposing the bid to make Truro and Cornwall the European Capital of Culture. A minimum of £336,000 now of residents money would be needed for the first stage of the bid and the cabinet says that the rest of the £536,000 cost could act as leverage in various ways to get money from other sources. This proposal went from the cabinet to the scrutiny panel where it met with an exact 50-50 response and on the casting vote of the chairman was not opposed. It will now go back to cabinet. Your Cornwall Councillors are split on this with Councillors Frank and Austin supporting and Councillors Holley and Ellison opposing the project. Councillors Frank and Austin support it on the grounds that the bid itself may generate income through publicity and a successful bid may bring (on the evidence from other cities) a huge amount of tourist cash into the county. Councillor Holley's objection was solely on the grounds of spending residents money without any certainties of return at this difficult financial time of austerity and saving in other areas and not on the cultural principle of the bid. Councillor Ellison opposes it on the same grounds but also because he thinks the benefit will be largely around Truro and the west.

Two other initiatives at the moment are a current consultation on the ASBO strategy that the county should adopt and the finalisation of the county's sexual health strategy.

Derek Holley
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.

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