

Apr 20 Town Messenger

Why Has Our Town Council Tax Increased? 435 36

Saltash Town Council has agreed that the publicised increase of the overall council tax bill would not give a true representation of the facts. Postings on social media suggest that there is a misunderstanding that the overall council tax bill has risen by 56% but that is certainly not the case.

It is a fact that the 56% increase applies only to a tiny percentage (7.62%) of the previous year's council tax bill, whereas the overall council tax increase for a typical Band D property for the year 2019/20 is in single figures taken across all four charging authorities, Cornwall Council, Adult Social Care, Police and **Saltash Town Council**.

Budget meetings have been held in recent months both at county and local level, to determine the increase that is necessary to maintain the services that residents would expect, whether that be rubbish collection, social care, or services such as the Library.

A programme of returning control of your services to local Towns and Parish's Councils is taking place across Cornwall whereby services that were previously provided by Cornwall Council have been transferred to Town Councils including **Saltash**. This is ongoing and will be for the foreseeable future. This means that the revenue needed to pay for these services are now collected at local level rather than at county level.

Overall the council tax bill for **Saltash** residents has increased by the equivalent of approximately £3.07 per week for a typical Band D property of which £1.48 goes to **Saltash Town Council** to pay for the services such as the Library, public toilets, maintain the Waterside and Waterfront, additional grass cutting and more. The other £1.59 is split between Cornwall Council, Police and Crime, and Adult Social Care.

If the services mentioned were not being returned from Cornwall Council to Town Councils it is a fact that Cornwall would have to raise the additional revenue themselves, with the obvious impact on their budget. Alternatively, services such as the Library might have faced closure or curtailment.

Equally important, if not more so, is the fact that in 2018/19 **Saltash Town Council** received just 7.68% of the overall council tax, whereas for 2019/20 it is to receive 11% of the total bill. This is all money that will be spent locally providing better quality local services for local residents.