

St Ives Town Council 2023-24 The Town Council share of your Council Tax bill



St Ives Town Council

St Ives Town Council has set its budget for the financial year 2023-24, in order to be able to maintain the services it is committed to providing, in the most cost-effective way possible.

How The Town Council is Funded

The Town Council's budget for 2023-24 is £1,517,501. This is broken down further in the table below. Unlike many local Councils, the Council is able to raise some of its budget from services it charges for, like weddings and retail and office rents. By doing this, it keeps the Council Tax charge as low as possible. Next year, it plans to raise £450,309 of its budget this way, that is 30% which doesn't fall directly on local Council Tax payers. The amount sought from Council Tax (also called the precept) is £1,067,182 (compared with £873,481 last year). This means that a proportion of your overall Council Tax bill, paid to Cornwall Council is passed onto the Town Council. The proportion is small, relative to the rest of your bill.

The overall Council Tax increase for Cornwall Council is capped by Government. However, with increasing adult care costs, Cornwall Council consulted on a 4.99% increase.

- **Average Cornwall Council Band D charge = £1,802.79 - an increase of £85.68 (£1.65 per week) compared to 2022/23 plus**
- **Town Council element average Band D annual charge for a household = £209.94 - an increase of £40.20 (£0.77 per week)**

What is the Town Council's Budget Spent on ?

The table below shows the Council's income and expenditure by Committee. A significant proportion of the Council's budget goes into running front line services, such as public conveniences, the Library and Visitor and Information Service and also repairing and maintaining historic buildings, such as the chapels, cutting footpaths, street weeding, public benches and looking after the skate park and recreation ground. We also give grants to local community organisations and fund enforcement activities at the harbour and town centre CCTV. Like all businesses, the Council also faces the challenge of managing 140% increases in our utility bills. This is why we are investing in renewable energy sources and reducing consumption costs. Inflation also affects the purchase of supplies and services and, in particular the re-letting of our toilet cleaning contracts resulted in a doubling of the annual cost.

The Council remains ambitious for the future, and this means future growth and investment. For the coming year, the Council has committed to a programme (over £345,000) of capital investment. Some of which is supported by borrowing, which the Council carried out last year. In addition, we are using reserves and funds from the planning system. Investment priorities include:

St Ives Town Council - Overview Budget for 2023/24			
		Budgeted income 2023/24	Budgeted expenditure 2023/24
Finance & General Purposes Committee			
	Administration	1,078,282	447,955
	Community Provision	-	21,375
	Planning	-	5,400
	Devolution Provision	85,000	85,000
	Use of Reserves	38,303	-
Facilities Committee			
	Concert & Guildhall	64,696	100,230
	Guildhall Bar	30,000	20,000
	Library & Information Service	40,100	266,322
	Public Conveniences	31,029	228,666
	Island Centre	23,700	17,544
	Market House, Huers Hut & Lodges	53,178	3,700
	Chapels	8,900	2,750
	Facilities Maintenance & Management	56,455	247,814
Community & Environment Committee			
	Allotments	5,398	2,750
	Civic / Hospitality	-	25,970
	Amenities & Public Realm	2,460	31,225
	Palmerston Best & Open Spaces	-	10,800
	Total	£ 1,517,501	1,517,501

- Repairs and replacement of the library roof and installation of solar panels (£86,000)
- Match funding for the Town Deal project for the modernisation of the concert hall (£90,000)
- Replacement heating system in the library (£30,000)
- Full refurbishment of West Pier toilets (£60,000)
- Match funding for the progress of a digital skills project (£20,000)
- New public benches (£34,000)
- Affordable housing (£25,000)

The most ambitious plan is the **devolution of 46 land and properties from Cornwall Council**. Including parks and gardens and some empty buildings. The benefits will be facilities with investment and management levels determined locally. This

programme will be delivered over 2 years but the Council will need to prepare and plan for this investment from this year.

Why is the percentage higher than other local Councils in Cornwall and inflation ?

Just looking at a **percentage increase** can be misleading. The table below shows all the larger towns in Cornwall with their Council Tax cost in £, and the increase measured as a %. St Ives is 16th in the cost of its band D Council Tax, yet the percentage increase is the second highest (23.69%). This is because it's increasing a smaller bill than other places from last year.

	Town	2023-24 Band D Council Tax (£)	Annual Band D Council Tax Change (%)
1	Falmouth	423.06	11.93%
2	Bodmin	327.81	3.73%
3	Truro	320.38	16.33%
4	Penzance	299.86	21.74%
5	Camelford	287.95	8.92%
6	Launceston	274.09	0.02%
7	Wadebridge	251.21	8.31%
8	Bude	248.28	0.0%
9	Callington	245.70	2.3%
10	Hayle	240.24	8.47%
11	Saltash	237.16	3.66%
12	Newquay	237.07	5.00%
13	Redruth	233.00	0%
14	Lostwithiel	216.77	3.00%
15	Camborne	210.41	-1.44%
16	St Ives	209.94	23.69%
17	Looe	207.60	5.00%
18	Helston	202.96	22.98%
19	St Dennis	185.01	9.62%
20	St Columb	182.33	38.28%
21	Torpoint	176.49	7.61%
22	St Austell	164.36	15.9%
23	St Stephens	162.16	7.36%
24	Liskeard	146.72	4.00%

Another reason key reason why the percentage increase is higher in St Ives is that the Council Tax base of St Ives is shrinking as more and more properties stop becoming permanent homes. Many become holiday lets and they pay business rates not Council Tax.

Supporting Local Services

Cornwall Council provides large and important statutory services- roads, waste, adult social care and children's services. But the real strength of town and parish councils is that they can provide very local services which directly benefit the parish and all the income raised is re-invested in the local area. Some examples of the services the Town Council provide are as follows:

- St Ives Guildhall and Concert Hall (town council offices and a venue for concerts, live music, markets and weddings)
- St Ives Public Library and Information Service and the Visitor Information Service, also a venue for children's activities, classes, public IT access and training, advice services etc
- The Island Centre (another community building available for hire)
- Managing and investing in the Palemon Best Recreation Ground including the recent concrete skate park. We also invested in new benches, picnic tables, free water re-fill stations and re-introduced the minis football pitch.

- 74 allotments at Trowan
- Repairing and maintaining heritage buildings: St Nicholas Chapel on the Island; St Leonards Chapel at Smeatons Pier; the Baulking House at Hain Walk and the Market House.
- Repairing, managing and maintaining all Public Conveniences in St Ives and Longstone Cemetery
- Repairing and maintaining over 220 public benches

Services provided by the Town Council include:

- Neighbourhood Plan policy setting and review
- Tourist information
- Footpath maintenance and cutting
- Commissioning the town centre CCTV, monitoring and maintenance
- Hosting weddings, blessings meetings and events
- Street weeding
- Running the St Ives Box office
- Repairing and maintaining the townwide festoon lights
- Running a Community Grants programme
- Funding support for local good causes including the Hayle Day Care Centre, Archive, and the September Festival and the Citizens Advice Bureau
- Enforcement of the environmental and beach dog control orders
- Commenting on planning consultations – over 300 this year
- Running and funding Civic and Community events including Feast, Knill, Mayor Choosing, Good Friday boating