



St Ives Town Council

Annual
Review
2023-24



Feast Day 2024
Image: Greg Martin

Introduction from Mayor Johnnie Wells



Town Mayor
Johnnie Wells

Welcome to the Annual Review of the year 2023-24, my first as the Mayor of St Ives. I would like to thank my predecessor, Councillor Kirsty Arthur for all her invaluable help and advice during the early months - there's such a lot to do and learn!

Kirsty handed over a Council bursting with projects and ambitions through the Town Deal and our Devolution programme. We are all genuinely committed to deliver those projects and plans, which will transform St Ives, Carbis Bay, Halsetown and Lelant over the coming years into a parish we can all be even prouder of.

As this was my first year, almost everything was a first as Mayor... my first Feast, Fair Mo, crying the neck. I have had so many new experiences and met so many genuine and passionate local people doing great things. Outside the parish, I have joined many other Mayors for their civic events and have been in a lot of churches and village halls across our Duchy and I can honestly say every event has been a real treat.

Perhaps the greatest honour, was meeting the King and Queen on their unannounced flying visit to St Ives. Although there were rumours around the town, it was still a fantastic surprise and it was my proudest moment to be allowed to join them on their walk through the Town and shake hands with an enthusiastic crowd. The warm welcome they received from St Ives did everyone proud.

We know we're not just a holiday town with flowers and flags, we are a strong community, yet many local people continue to find themselves under pressure financially and lacking the services and homes we need. I have been encouraged while sitting on the town's planning committee by a number of local families building their own houses... and while I understand it is not open to everyone, it speaks volumes that St Ives people try to find their own creative solutions. One of my ambitions is to help find practical solutions to the area's needs, from housing to transport to climate change issues, there are always local solutions.

Over the year there has been a wide variety of events. I attended a number of village fetes, produce shows, garden parties, most of the Edward Hain events... I handed out certificates at the St Ives Judo Club, the School Awards, attended a 60th wedding anniversary and was present when Mrs Whittle opened her telegram from the King and Queen in honour of her 100th birthday... and that was the second of the year!

I will end where I started, by saying I am proud to be part of a Council which is supporting many community groups we have in St Ives, like the Food Share, St Ives Food Bank, and Citizens Advice who are so desperately needed and I would encourage every one who can help to do so.



About the Council

Halsetown



Senara Wilson-Hodges



Charlie Hodson



Kirsty Arthur



Lisa Smith



Andrew Mitchell



Joan Beveridge



Kenny Messenger



Michael Evamy

St Ives West

East & Carbis Bay

Lelant



James Ryall



Luke Rogers



Sinead McNamee



Rachel Gaunt



Steve Hynes



Tony Harris



Johnnie Wells



Paul Viney

About the Town Council

St Ives is a Town Council with 16 councillors, supported by a town clerk and 25 council employees. Local Town and Parish Councils form the second tier of local government. Unlike the Unitary Cornwall Council, which has to deliver statutory services like housing, planning and waste, Town Councils focus on very local services. From benches to footpath cutting, running the skate park to the library - we use our well-being powers to help our communities.

Our Core Values

- **Ambitious for the future.** We want St Ives to be a happy, healthy vibrant place where everyone can thrive. We will be forward thinking and innovative to achieve positive outcomes.
- **Celebrating our history and culture.** We value the rich history and culture which make St Ives special. We will continue to celebrate, promote and invest in our unique heritage.
- **Championing St Ives.** We will put St Ives at the heart of everything we do.
- **Collaborative – working with others.** We can achieve far more by working with others. We will work closely with other councils, the local community, voluntary groups, and businesses to develop common goals.

Committees

The Council manages its work in 6 Committees. Each of the Committees completes work and makes decisions which help the Council deliver. Each has priority projects and an annual work programme

The Community and Environment Committee
Is responsible for social, cultural, community and environmental issues and projects

The Facilities Committee
Is responsible for the repair and maintenance of Council's physical assets and properties and how they are run. It also looks after weddings, events and live performance at the concert hall

The Planning Committee
Is responsible for commenting on planning proposals and implementing and reviewing St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Finance and General Purposes Committee
Is responsible for the Council's spending, land and property, policies, and strategies

The Staffing Committee
Is responsible for dealing with all staffing matters, both policy and operational

The Devolution and Place Shaping Panel
Is responsible for taking the lead on discussions and negotiations with Cornwall Council for devolved services, facilities and functions.

A Year in Pictures

April - Keep our Sea Chemical free protest at April Council Meeting



May - New Deputy Mayor Ken Messenger with new Mayor Johnnie Wells



May - Councillor Steve Hynes with Michael Skeggs on completion of his Digital Marketing Apprenticeship



June - Renovation works completed on the Cornerstone roof



June - Town Council agrees Cornwall Council devolution deal



June - Cornwall Pride at the Guildhall



July - Royal Visit



Image: Greg Martin

July - Refurbishment of West Pier public toilets



August - Our busiest month for Weddings at the Guildhall



Image: Verity Westcott

August - Funding and installation of four new defibrillators



September - September Festival at the Guildhall



Image: Mike Sinclair

September - Barclays Bank service in the Cornerstone



September - Weekly Markets temporarily move to The Island Centre



October - Installation of a new Changing Places toilet facility at Porthminster Beach



November - Remembrance Day



Image: St Ives Times & Echo

December - Premier Inn Protestors at the Planning Committee meeting



Image: St Ives Times & Echo

December - St Ives Archive open day at Market House



December - New Year's Eve fireworks in the Harbour jointly funded with St Ives BID



What the Town Council Does

January - Refurbishment of the Sloop public toilets



January - Funding secured for new Richmond Gardens redevelopment plan



February - 2024 Feast Day celebrations



February - New Cornerstone Manager starts - Luke Dimech



March - Kite Fest 2024 on The Island



March - Good Friday Boating at Consols Pool



Your council tax pays for the police, Cornwall Council and Town and Parish Councils and it can sometimes be confusing to know who is responsible for what

- Cornwall Council is the principal Council in Cornwall. It has a lot of legal duties to deliver services such as schools, care for children and adults, highways, domestic waste, planning and more.
- In addition, there are 218 Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall. These are local councils and they don't have many legal responsibilities (things they have to do), but they do have many powers which they can use to help their local communities. Town Councils are becoming more and more ambitious about what they want to achieve for their communities. With large councils having their budgets cut, local councils are stepping into the gap to do more and prevent services being lost. St Ives Town Council currently own, deliver and manage the following services:
 - The public CCTV system
 - 7 sets of public toilets in the parish
 - The library and visitor information service based in the Cornerstone
 - The Guildhall concert hall, putting on events and live performance
 - Weddings at the Guildhall and chapel blessings at the Island Chapel
 - Heritage buildings including the two historic chapels, the Guildhall and library, the Huer's hut, Market House, St Ives well
 - 220 public benches
 - 74 allotment plots
 - Maintain the Island Community Centre
 - Funding a community grants programme
 - Manage retail and commercial space for rent (eg Market House, the Guildhall, the Island Centre)
 - Hosting important traditional feasts and events (Feast, Knill, Good Friday boating, mayor choosing, New Year's Eve)
 - The Palemon Best park and skate park, memorial gardens and Richmond Gardens
 - Host farmers, arts and craft markets
 - Provide responses to 252 planning applications
 - Adopt and implement a Neighbourhood Development Plan
 - Licensing and enforcement for ticket sellers and street businesses
 - Footpath cutting, street weeding and summer planting schemes

Community & Environment Committee



Committee Chair
Sinead McNamee



Helping out at the Free for All

Committee Aims

- To improve the quality and number of community facilities in the parish
- To develop closer links with community initiatives and voluntary sector groups
- To respond to the declared climate change emergency

What We Said We'd Do

- Deliver projects in our climate emergency action plan
- Increase the amount and quality of community infrastructure in St Ives, (benches, bins, street planting, allotments, play equipment) and ensure it is managed locally
- Champion the delivery of more affordable housing
- Support the delivery of a community café at the Palemon Best recreation ground
- Support the development of plans for green spaces and parks across the parish and take over their management, through devolution
- Work with BID to deliver an innovative commercial waste solution
- Working with others, deliver local community events, including the town's key festivals and New Year's Eve
- Ensure the better management of the harbour front through new licensing
- Maintain high quality footpaths and coastpath routes

What's Happened This Year

- Worked with the community on exciting new plans for Richmond Gardens and have secured over £200,000 to deliver the first phase.
- Continued funding improvements at Palemon Best Park including CCTV and a new composting toilet
- Continued to deliver a licensing scheme for boat trip ticket sellers and hairbraiders and fund multi-skilled enforcement officers to look after the streets
- Rolled out our climate action plan including putting solar panels on our library and setting up a new climate action partnership.
- We have lobbied hard to prevent untested chemical experiments in St Ives Bay.
- Championed low carbon transport plans to reduce private cars in the town centre.
- Continued to fund footpath cutting on coastal paths and parish paths and street weeding.
- Worked with BID to invest in more summer planting for the town centre
- Worked with housing groups to identify new sites for affordable housing and granted £25,000 to St Ives CLT for new homes
- Hosted and funded local events including Pride, the Coronation and September Festival, Mayday.
- Supported advice and help through the CAB and Barclays community library and continued to fund older persons and youth groups such as Hayle Day care, U3A and Salvation Army.

Facilities Committee



Committee Chair
Kirsty Arthur



Project team for the Guildhall redevelopment

Committee Aims

- To improve the quality and energy performance of the Council's property and buildings
- To manage high quality facilities available for the benefit of the community and which deliver income to support service delivery
- To increase the number of community buildings and spaces

What We Said We'd Do

- We will aim to make more of our buildings accessible, including support for a new changing places toilet
- We will repair the Library & Visitor Information Centre (VIC) roof
- We will pilot charging for high volume toilet sites, to reduce the cost burden on council tax payers
- We will modernise the Library & VIC layout and introduce new signage
- We will celebrate the town's rich cultural past, introducing black and white heritage plaques and submit a funding application for the Huer's Hut

What's Happened This Year

- Began our £3.11 million project to renovate the concert hall into a dynamic new performance space
- Replaced the library roof and installed a new solar array and new banner signage
- Worked with the St Ives Archive to secure funding for a new home at Market House
- Installed a new fully accessible changing places toilet at Porthminster beach
- Fully refurbished two sets of toilet blocks for the town centre
- Successfully piloted toilet charging which reduced the cost of the Council Tax by £25,000
- Delivered an exciting programme of live performances at the concert hall, including sell out live music, ground breaking theatre
- Increasing the programme of activities and events in the Cornerstone from yoga to silk printing
- Submitted an ambitious funding bid for a digital skills project hosted by the Cornerstone and Old Fire Station
- Ran a successful St Ives box office to sell tickets on behalf of local venues
- Hosted over 70 weddings and blessings and an open house wedding fair
- Celebrated our fifth anniversary of running the library!

Planning Committee



Committee Chair
Kenny Messenger



Planning Committee comment on the Premier Inn application

Committee Aims

- To provide meaningful scrutiny and comments on all planning applications
- To support an effective pre-application process
- To be lead committee for the neighbourhood development plan
- To respond to important national and countywide policy documents

What We Said We'd Do

- Support the development of planning briefs to safeguard important community assets, including the former Edward Hain Hospital and the Huer's Hut
- Review the role and status of the St Ives Neighbourhood Development Plan
- We will proactively use planning policy and future investments to protect independent businesses and the high street and meet the needs for affordable housing
- Support affordable housing and local needs housing proposals

What's Happened This Year

- The Planning Committee met monthly and provided comments on 252 planning applications
- Held a number of pre-application meetings with developers and provided feedback on their proposals which often improved the submitted scheme
- Championed and supported community concerns over controversial planning proposals including the Carbis Bay Hotel, Premier Inn, Treloyhan Manor and the former Cottage and Garrack Hotels
- Attended Cornwall Council planning committee to represent the community's views on the need for permanent homes not holiday apartments
- Supported planning conditions which safeguarded new dwellings as permanent homes by applying the H2 planning policy on over 195 new community homes
- Provided an effective voice in a number of enforcement matters, reporting breaches of planning where they were identified.

Finance & General Purposes Committee



Committee Chair
Tony Harris



Moving the St Ives Archive to Market House

Committee Aims

- To increase the Council's financial resilience maximising income, identifying efficiency savings and increasing the level of general reserves.
- To oversee the review and successful letting of contracts for capital works, services and utilities
- To ensure that the Council's commercial property portfolio is operating efficiently
- To review all financial, risk and internal control measures for the year

What We Said We'd Do

- To ensure we have the financial capacity to deliver devolved services to the community
- To continue to be a low-cost, low-precepting town council and be one of the best value councils in Cornwall.
- To review income sources and service expenditure to ensure we deliver better value for money
- To build on past successes in bidding for external project grant funding
- To ensure that our technological support systems are effective in supporting our devolved services
- To work further towards higher accreditation for Quality Council status

What's Happened This Year

- We continued to provide good value for money by being a low-spending, low-precepting town council
- We managed to improve our financial reserves to more sustainable levels
- We gave financial support to help maintain the parish's defibrillators in good condition
- We continued to receive a clean bill of health from our auditors
- We continued to invest in our town CCTV system including new systems
- We hosted Barclay's Bank services in the library, following the bank's closure; and called for a banking hub in the town.
- We initiated charges for one of the public toilets with a view to rolling out this programme so that users (including visitors) pay for the service; not Council Tax payers
- We provided £16,000 grant funding to deserving community bodies in the parish prioritising those helping with the cost of living crisis

Staffing Committee



Committee Chair
Steve Hynes

Committee Aims

- To develop policies, procedures and strategies to support the Council's ambition to become an excellent employer
- To recruit and retain staff and support their professional development to better meet the organisation's aims and objectives

What We Said We'd Do

- Review the staffing implications of devolving services from Cornwall Council
- Offer support and training opportunities to help staff to perform at a high level
- Review the Health & Safety framework to ensure best practice and compliance
- Regularly review all HR policies and procedures to support a modern effective workforce.

What's Happened This Year

- The Committee carried out a rolling programme of Health and Safety reviews, adopting an online incident reporting and health and safety system
- Recruited a new Cornerstone Manager, senior Maintenance Officer and Interim Concert Hall Manager into the team
- Our first apprentice secured their level 3 diploma in digital marketing
- Secured external grant funding to recruit new project staff
- Filled all council vacancies with suitably qualified and professional individuals
- Continued to be a real living wage employer
- Invested in a training programme, provided new uniforms and upgraded staff facilities
- Reviewed safeguarding, health and safety and staff handbook policies

Devolution & Place Shaping Panel



Committee Chair
Rachel Gaunt

Committee Aims

Devolution means taking on the ownership and management of Cornwall Council land and property at local level. The Council has taken on toilets, the library and benches and has asked if it can take ownership of many other community green spaces and buildings. The Council has several aims in doing so:

- Using land and buildings to address economic issues, (affordable work space, housing) and prevent them being sold off for holiday/second homes
- Re-imagining and investing in important green spaces to develop parks, allotments, growing spaces and nurseries
- Taking on some income generating assets to create cross-subsidy that funds expanding environmental services, green parks and spaces

What We Said We'd Do

- We will progress an ambitious devolution package to take on the ownership and management of key parks and green spaces and work with the community to re-imagine their future role
- We will manage small affordable commercial and retail spaces to assist local businesses and aim to increase the portfolio through devolution
- Following approval from Cornwall Council, we will begin a detailed programme of community consultation on the plans



Celebrating the town package transfer

What's Happened This Year

In June 2023 Cornwall Council agreed a ground breaking Town Package to transfer 49 pieces of land and properties for £1 - we did it! Now is the long and difficult task of working through all the legal details. Properties will be transferred in groups over the next two years. We have already taken on

- The Old Fire Station to renovate as a creative and digital skills centre
- The War Memorial and gardens
- We now own the Guildhall outright
- Richmond Gardens to deliver our exciting modernisation plans

Councillors Attendance

Full Council	15-May	17-May	15-Jun	7-Sept	14-Dec	15-Feb	% Att
Arthur	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	83
Beveridge	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	67
Evamy	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	67
Gaunt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hodson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hynes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
McNamee	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	83
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	67
Rogers	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	50
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	83
Viney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wilson-Hodges	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	67

Planning	1-Jun	22-Jun	27-Jun	10-Aug	21-Sep	9-Nov	7-Dec	11-Jan	22-Feb	% Att
Hodson	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	67
Hynes	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	78
McNamee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Rogers	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	56
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Viney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Wilson-Hodges	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	67

C&E	18-May	19-Oct	25-Jan	% Att
Arthur	✓	✓	✗	67
Evamy	✗	✓	✓	67
Harris	✓	✓	✓	100
Hodson	✓	✗	✗	33
Hynes	N/A	N/A	✓	100
McNamee	✓	✓	✗	67
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	✓	✓	✓	100
Viney	✓	✓	✓	100

Facilities	15-May	17-May	15-Jun	% Att
Arthur	✓	✓	✓	100
Beveridge	✓	✓	✓	100
Evamy	✓	✓	✓	75
Harris	✗	✗	✓	25
Hynes	✓	✓	✓	100
Ryall	✓	✓	✓	100
Smith	✓	✓	✓	100
Wells	✗	✓	✓	75
Viney	✓	N/A	N/A	100
McNamee	N/A	N/A	N/A	100

F&GP	8-Jun	3-Aug	30-Nov	7-Mar	% Att
Arthur	✗	✗	✓	✓	50
Beveridge	✓	✗	✓	✓	75
Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hynes	✓	✓	✓	✗	75
McNamee	✓	✗	✓	✓	75
Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✗	75
Viney	✓	N/A	✓	✓	100

Staffing	1-Jun	22-Jun	% Att
Arthur	✓	✓	100
Beveridge	✗	✓	50
Harris	✓	✓	100
Hynes	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	100

Devolution	29-Jun	17-Aug	5-Dec	1-Feb	% Att
Arthur	✓	✓	✗	✓	75
Beveridge	✓	✗	✓	✗	50
Evamy	✓	✓	✗	✗	50
Gaunt	✗	✓	✓	✓	75
Harris	✗	✓	✓	✓	75
Messenger	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mitchell	✗	✗	✗	✗	0
Rogers	✗	✗	✗	✓	25
Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Viney	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	100
Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓	100

Resources & Finances

How the Town Council is Funded

The Town Council's budget for 2024-25 is £1,852,514. Unlike some Councils, St Ives is able to raise some of its budget from services it charges for, such as commercial rents, room hire, event and bar income, weddings and blessings. By maximising our income, the amount needed from the Council Tax is far less. This year, the Council plans to raise £536,268 of its budget from income, that means 29% less comes from Council Tax (also known as the Precept). After income, the balance, £1,316,246 comes from Council Tax. The Town Council proportion (10.6%) is the smallest part of your overall Council Tax bill, paid to Cornwall Council, which is passed onto the Town Council.

Annual Cornwall Council tax bill for 2024-25 in St Ives (band D) property	= £2425.37
Of this:	
Average annual Town Council element for 2024-25 (band D) property	= £258.11
Monthly cost of Town Council services for a Band D household	= £21.50 (£4.96 a week)

What is the Council's Budget Spent on?

A significant proportion of the Council's budget goes into running front line services, such as all the public conveniences, the Library and Visitor and Information Service and also repairing and maintaining the historic buildings it owns, such as the chapels. It cuts footpaths, carries out street weeding and manages the recreation ground. It also give grants to local community organisations and the management and improvement of 220 benches in the parish. The table on the following page shows the Council's income and expenditure by Committee.

For next year, the Council has committed to a large programme (over £200,000) of capital investment. In 2024-25, we are investing in:

- Repairs and investment into a new creative digital space at the Old Fire Station
- Upgrading public toilets
- Funds for the modernisation of the concert hall to upgrade the facilities for a new programme of live events
- Renovating the Market House as the Archive's new home
- Investment as we take over the management and ownership of properties including Richmond Gardens, the Island Blockhouse and other significant community assets



Maintenance officer Andy Costello helping out at Consols Pool

Resources & Finance

Overview of Proposed Budget 2024/25

	Draft Budgeted Income (£)	Draft Budgeted Expenditure (£)
Finance & General Purposes		
Administration	1,342,746	425,750
Community Provision	-	32,600
Planning	-	5,400
Devolution	172,000	172,000
Use of Reserves	-	-
Facilities Committee		
Concert & Guildhall	38,892	211,337
Guildhall Bar	-	-
Library & Information Service	55,250	289,721
Public Conveniences	78,819	283,237
Island Centre	29,400	16,742
Market House, Huers Hut & Lodges	53,178	4,000
Chapels	10,000	2,900
Facilities Maintenance & Management	-	270,553
Community & Environment Committee		
Allotments	7,188	2,850
Civic/Hospitality	500	29,270
Amenities & Public Realm	59,947	49,050
Palemon Best & Open Spaces	4,594	57,104
Total	1,852,514	1,852,514



Refurbished Library Roof

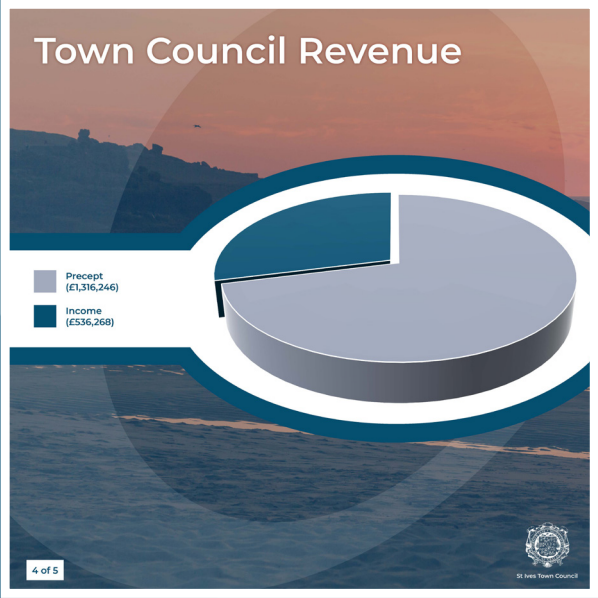
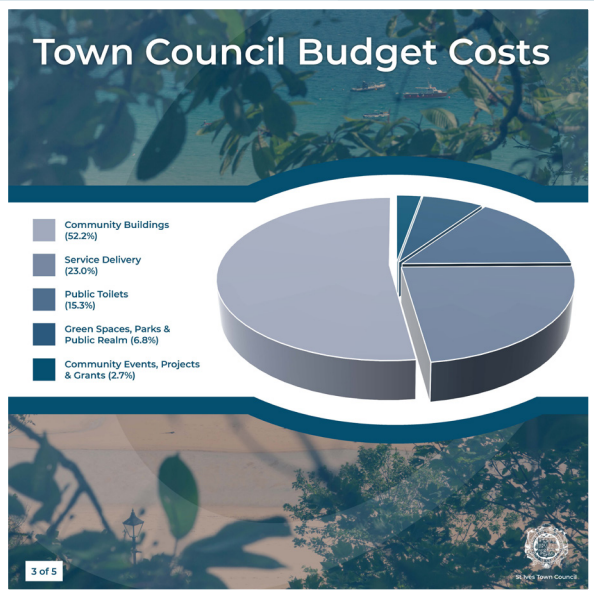
Your Council Tax Bill Explained



Tax Band Breakdown

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Annual Cornwall Council Tax	£1261.83	£1472.14	£1682.44	£1892.75	£2313.36	£2733.97	£3154.58	£3785.50
Town Parish Council	£172.07	£200.75	£229.43	£258.11	£315.47	£372.83	£430.18	£516.22
Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner	£183.00	£213.51	£244.01	£274.51	£335.50	£396.51	£457.51	£549.01
Total Council Tax Payable	£1616.90	£1886.40	£2155.88	£2425.37	£2964.33	£3503.31	£4042.27	£4850.73

2 of 5



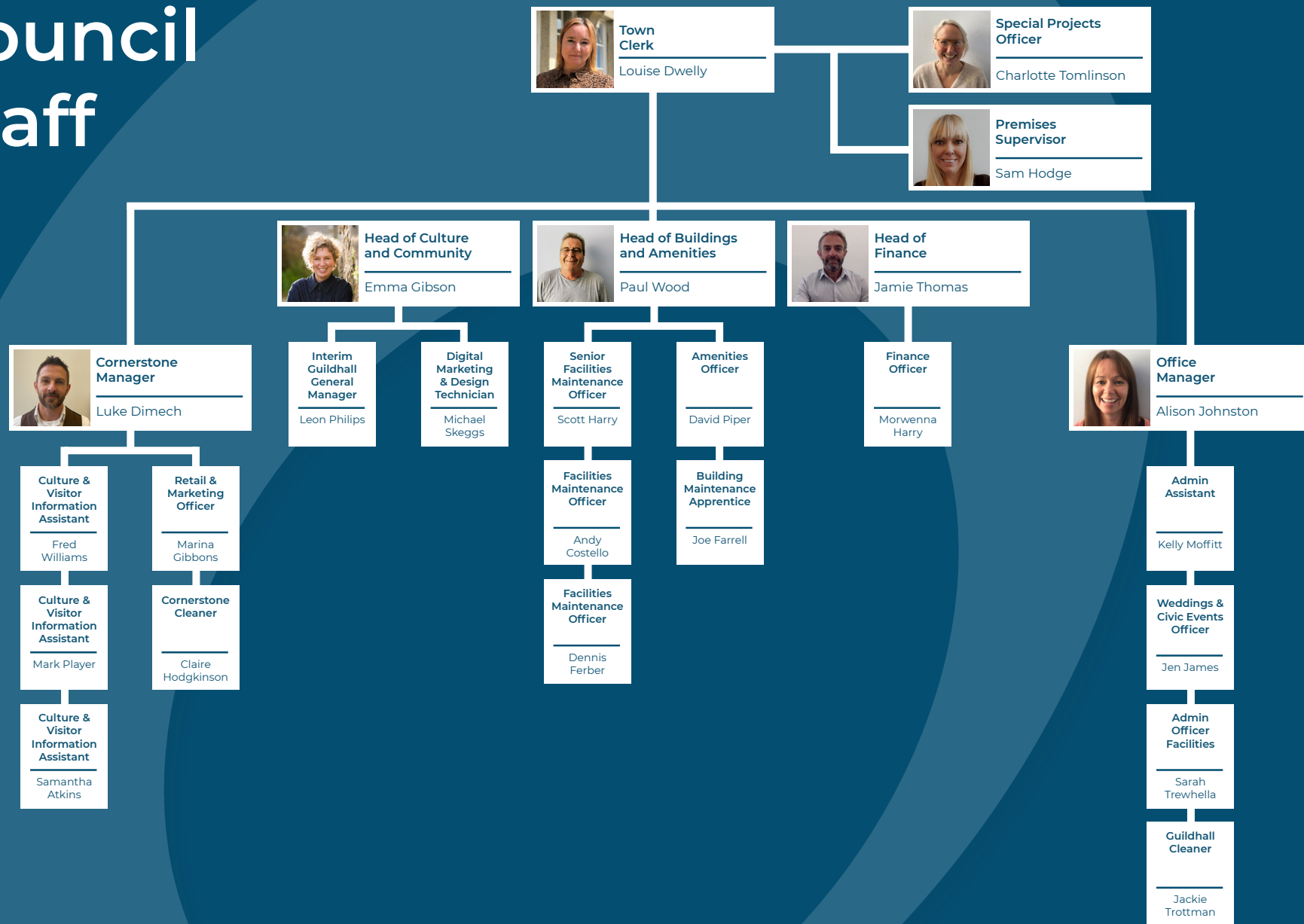
Compared to Other Towns

Based on Band D

Town	Band D Bill 2024-25
Falmouth	£431.24
Truro	£401.97
Bodmin	£352.25
Launceston	£324.37
Penzance	£321.20
Camelford	£312.72
Newquay	£300.98
Bude	£299.19
Hayle	£292.74
Wadebridge	£271.02
Callington	£268.51
St Ives	£258.11
Saltash	£248.58
Camborne	£236.37
Lostwithiel	£231.39
Helston	£227.15
Liskeard	£215.90
Torpoint	£195.44
St Austell	£180.60
St Agnes	£150.17
Fowey	£138.74
Padstow	£0.00

5 of 5

Council Staff



Vacancies

- Sustainable St Ives Project Officer
- Youth Engagement & Projects Officer
- Part Time Receptionist & Admin Assistant



St Ives Town Council

St Ives Town Council

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