

Council tax set for increase this year

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BBC local democracy reporter

Full details have been revealed for how much residents in Cornwall could be paying in council tax for 2021-22.

The details were released ahead of a Cornwall Council meeting which was due to take place yesterday (Tuesday) to approve the authority's budget for the next financial year.

Under the recommendation from the cabinet, councillors were to be asked to approve a 4.99 per cent increase to the council's share of council tax bills.

This includes an increase of 1.99 per cent and an extra three per cent which will be used to fund adult social care.

If approved, Cornwall Council's share of council tax for a Band D property in 2021-22 would be £1,667.26.

Final council tax bills will also contain contributions for householders to make to Devon and Cornwall Police, and to their local town and parish councils.

The Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel have

Biggest rises

The top 10 biggest increases in council tax by local councils for 2021/22 and the charges for a Band D property:

Dobwalls:
67.93 per cent; £62.47
Advent: 64.84pc; £12.94
Roche: £86.64; £134.09
Egloskerry:
51.75pc; £36.07
Landulph: 49.97pc; £98.47
Portreath:
37.06pc; £110.84
St Minver Highlands:
29.29pc; £83.52
Chacewater:
28.8pc; £73.17
St Mabyn:
27.02pc; £120.61
Botus Fleming:
25.73pc; £62.80

approved the police and crime commissioner's recommended increase of 6.73 per cent, which equates to a Band D charge of £236.56.

Parish and town councils have now approved their budgets for 2021-22 and the average increase is 3.39 per cent, which results in a Band D

Sharpest falls

The top 10 reductions among town and parish councils are (percentage is reduction and second figure is charge for 21/22):

Cubert: 100 per cent; £0
St Keyne and Trewidland:
45.68pc; £41.84
St Teath: 25.35pc; £69.51
Boyton: 23.54pc; £21.44
Illogan: 20.61pc; £102.70
Cardinham:
18.5pc; £38.03
Bodmin: 18.09pc; £274.38
Constantine:
16.24pc; £67.68
St Just: 13.31pc; £133.29
St Columb Major:
13.25pc; £135.33

charge of £138.13. However, while the average increase by town and parish councils is 3.39 per cent, some have hiked their charges by as much as 67.93 per cent.

While that increase looks high, it has to be considered in relation to the low rates that some town and parish coun-

Highest bills

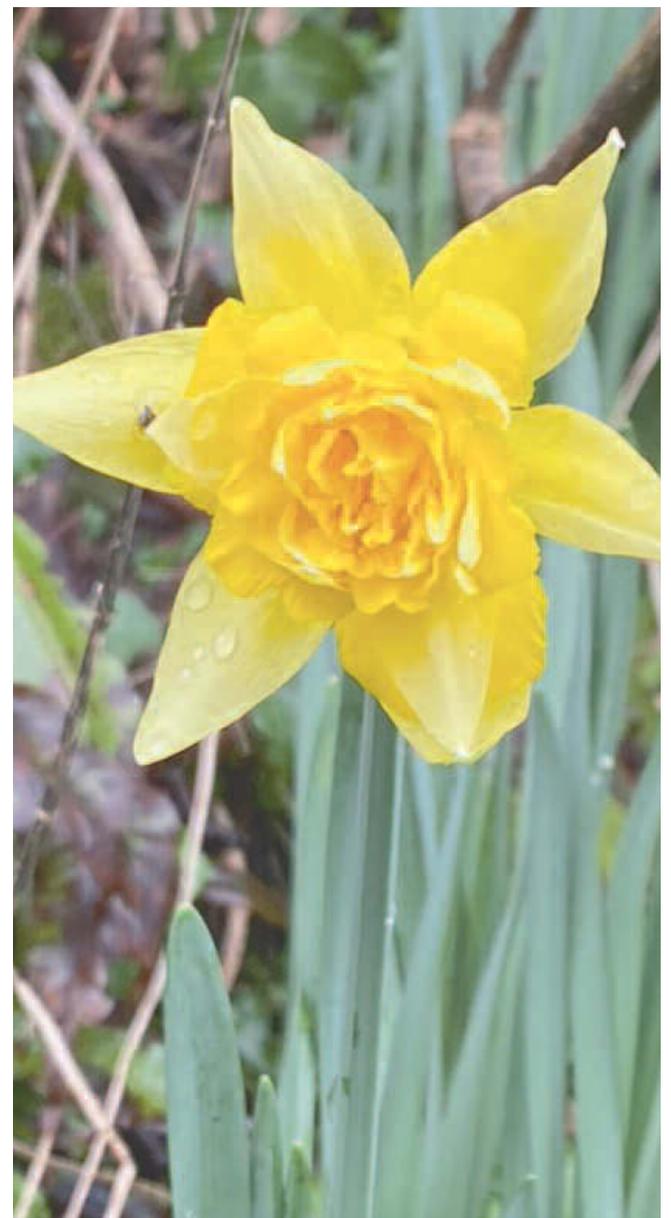
The top 10 local council tax bills in Cornwall for Band D properties in 2021/22:

Falmouth: £2,274.99
Bodmin: £2,178.20
Truro: £2,171.38
Launceston: £2,160.84
Camelford: £2,158.20
Bude-Stratton: £2,144.87
Callington: £2,139.39
Newquay: £2,126.14
Wadebridge: £2,124.93
Saltash: £2,123.21

cils charge. However, while these councils have all increased their budgets for the coming year, some have managed to cut the amount of council tax they want residents to pay.

When the three elements of council tax bills – Cornwall Council, police and local councils – are added together, it is the towns of Cornwall which have the highest total bills.

Cornwall Council was due to meet online yesterday to approve the budget and set tax rates.



There is no surer sign that spring is on the way than the daffodil, as snapped by one Voice reader in Chacewater
PICTURE: SARAH GRIBBLE

EU funding continues to support Cornish businesses until 2023

From providing support programmes to developing high quality workspaces and investing in research and innovation projects – new and existing businesses across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are continuing to benefit from European funding through the €600 million Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth Programme.

Part funded through the Growth Programme, the Growth Hub has helped thousands of local businesses work smarter, develop and grow. The Penryn based Letter Box Hamper company, which sends hampers containing luxury produce in letterbox sized packages to customers around the world, is one of the many local businesses which has been taking full advantage of this expert funded support.

After initially receiving help from the Growth Hub three years ago to launch his new business, Letter Box director Jonathan Wingfield is working once again with their team on plans to expand the premises

and increase the company's overseas exports and business customers.

"Even when you are lucky enough to have access to fantastic products, starting your own business from scratch is not easy," said Jonathan. "We are very grateful for the support we have received from the Growth Hub team. 95% of our business is now outside of Cornwall with customers from Scotland to Australia and Hong Kong, and we are keen to expand into other parts of the world."

To support growth and meet business needs across Cornwall, over £26 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is also being invested in developing high quality and fit for purpose workspaces.

Workspace such as Sector 2, at the Aerohub Business Park near Newquay, received £4.3m funding from ERDF to support Cornish firms' expansion ambitions such as pioneering energy company Bennamann. The company, which moved to Sector 2 in 2019, is working with a range of partners



and local farmers to develop and commercialise the use of new technologies that turn organic waste from farms into biomethane; a zero-carbon fuel that can be used to power lorries and tractors, heat households and businesses, provide hot water and even charge electric vehicles.

After successfully securing a grant from ERDF, Bennamann is also working on an exciting £1.22m research and development project which is looking at maximising the use of on-site renewable energy resources to establish an independent energy farm in Cornwall.

"We are very proud to be a Cornish company that has the potential to radically change the global energy market and look forward to putting Cornwall at the forefront of this

pioneering renewable energy innovation," said Chris Mann, Bennamann Chairman and co-founder. "Without the funding from the ERDF it simply would not have happened, it could not have come at a better time for the county and us."

Another company successfully capitalising on the EU funding available in Cornwall, is Morek Engineering. Following support from ERDF funded programmes PROPEL Cornwall and Tevi, as well as the Growth Hub, Morek was set up 18 months ago by naval architect Bob Colclough to provide specialist technical consultancy services and deliver offshore wind, wave and tidal projects across the world. Backed by further ERDF funding from the research and innovation Marine-i programme,



Morek is currently developing new specialist software to safely transport the huge equipment needed for installing offshore wind turbines by sea.

"Support from these organisations has played a key part in our development and growth," said Bob. "Many new companies don't realise this support is available or how important it is to develop their business."

As part of the Brexit deal it was agreed that existing EU funded programmes such as the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth Programme would be completed, with its associated funded projects running up until 2023. To find out more visit: www.cornwallislesofscillygrowthprogramme.org.uk