

Cornish Constitutional Convention
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www.cornishassembly.eu

Tim Jones
Acting Leader
Restormel Borough Council
Penwinnick Road
St AUSTELL
Kernow

30th June 2006

'The Cornish Proposition'

Dear Tim,

I am writing on behalf of the Cornish Constitutional Convention to thank you personally for proposing the motion calling for the establishment of a Cornish Assembly, and your Council for strongly supporting it.

Although there has been no recent test of public opinion I am sure that the level of support for overhauling the way in which the public sector is organised in Cornwall, and introducing a democratically accountable and streamlined leadership structure is widely supported.

You will be aware of the resolution¹ of Cornwall Council agreed on March 13th which has initiated detailed work to bring together public services (health, education, local government and other services) for Cornwall within a single structure. This work has at its heart three fundamental principles:

1. Separating strategy from delivery
2. Embedding democracy
3. Practising subsidiarity

It is seeking the cooperation of Government to form a business plan to indicate powers, functions and duties which will need to transfer or be devolved in order to make this innovative approach to governance work. The object is to make a plan which is backed by a consensus and to present this as a proposition to Mrs Kelly as soon as possible, preferably before publication of the White Paper. You and your Council are participating in this work.

In essence, the resolution of your Council and that of Cornwall Council are mutually compatible. The split between strategy and delivery requires the formation of an over-arching body responsible for strategy, commissioning, revenue/bidding, promoting Cornwall and performance management². What is under scrutiny at present is the potential structure for integrated service delivery. The aim is to test the proposition for efficiency and productivity, and the expectation is that, working together with other service providers, Cornwall can achieve significant savings and higher standards, building on our already sound foundations.

We hope that you will use your influence to encourage a positive approach to the work necessary to prepare the Cornish Proposition, and that the other district councils, together with Health Trust Boards, Governors of Further and Higher Education, principals of other services, and voluntary and private sector stakeholders will adopt the positive approach taken by Restormel BC and Cornwall Council.

With best wishes

Bert Biscoe
Chair, Cornish Constitutional Convention

¹ Enclosed

² You may be aware that, at a recent Convergence Co-ordination Group, the SW RDA tabled a paper proposing the formation of the Cornish Development Agency.

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confidence*



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SENEDEH KERNOW