

PRESS RELEASE

CORNISH ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN MAKES RADICAL PROPOSAL TO GOVERNMENT'S LYONS' COMMISSION

"It's time to ask, what would an assembly actually do?"

The organisation which is leading the campaign for a Cornish Assembly has made a strong submission to the Lyons Commission calling for the establishment of a new, directly elected strategic body for Cornwall. The Body would set strategy, commission service delivery, promote Cornwall, bid for funds, and monitor performance for all public services in Cornwall.

Cornish Constitutional Convention chairman, Bert Biscoe, said:

"We have got to the point where we have to ask: What would a Cornish Assembly actually do?"

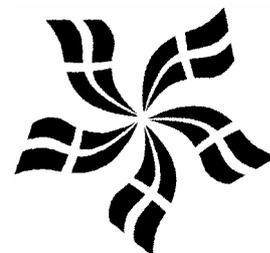
The new debate launched by David Miliband MP offers Cornwall a chance to make a radical and innovative proposal.

We see his idea of city-regions and ask: What's to be done in places like Cornwall to ensure we have governance as good as a big city? This is our suggestion.

Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly have a unique opportunity to forge a new, strategic partnership in which their identities are respected whilst their ability to win resources, organise excellent public services and promote our economies are greatly improved.

A Cornish Assembly would lead and shape all public services, including health, education, local government and other services. Some powers and functions would be devolved from Government departments, some from regional quangos – others would be taken up from local government.

Cornwall County Council would be transformed into a much smaller but much more important and influential, directly elected Body – not a local authority. The structures for delivering services would be radically rearranged, ensuring that there is a genuine democratic element, reducing overlap, confusion, duplication, over-administration, and integrating accounting and information systems.”



**Cornish
Constitutional
Convention**
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The Convention has been working constructively with local councils and other public services to formulate this proposal.

Recently, David Miliband wrote to the Convention saying that he recognised that Cornwall has many of the attributes of a natural region. At a recent meeting in Newquay the Minister also encouraged public sector leaders to ‘put your heads above the parapet and make radical suggestions’.

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