

ONECORNWALL

Parish and Town Council Communication

Issue 1, October 1st 2007:

Introduction

This is the first of a regular series of newsletters produced by officers of the One Cornwall team to keep parish and town councils up to date with the transition to a unified council. We would welcome any feedback from you on this newsletter and any ways in which you think it might be improved.

Parish and Town Council Meetings in Proposed Community Network Areas

To date we have conducted 8 meetings with another 8 planned over the next 2 weeks. There has been a good turnout of parish and town councils at these meetings so far, and they have provided an excellent opportunity to keep people informed of the progress of the transitional arrangements and highlight the avenues through which local councils can get involved in the process. We are also continuing to engage with councils on an individual basis, and to date we have visited around 40.

Individual Parish and Town Council Survey

The postal survey is currently in draft form and it is hoped that this should be ready for delivery towards the end of October. This will provide individual local councils with an opportunity to express their views on issues such as devolved services, local assets and a wide range of other issues that will become increasingly important over the coming months. It is also intended to be the start of an ongoing dialogue with each council.

Parish Liaison Officer

As part of the One Cornwall Team's commitment to providing easier access to information for all parish and town councils, a parish liaison officer position has been identified to ensure that there is a single point of contact for all questions relating to the transition. This officer is Steven Ford and his contact details are available below.

Regular CALC Meetings

A regular set of meetings have been set up with CALC to ensure that local council needs and concerns are at the forefront of the work of the One Cornwall Team.

Cornwall County Council Expresses Commitment to Principle of Equal Partnership Working

Cornwall County Council has expressed its commitment to working in partnership with the District Councils and other stakeholders in developing a unified council for Cornwall.

Councillors at a meeting of the full County Council supported a motion calling on the Council to commit itself to equal partnership working with the District Councils and other stakeholders in the implementation process for the proposed unified council for Cornwall.

The importance of working together was emphasised by all Councillors who agreed it was essential there was clear communication with people to build positive relationships and ensure that everyone is informed of the process.

Leaders and Chief Executive's meetings

The Leaders and Chief Executives of the seven Councils are meeting on a regular basis to chart the way forward and to determine the makeup of an Interim Governance structure involving Members from County and Districts to lead decision making.

A coordination group of officers from all the Councils has also been set up by the Chief Executives and meets regularly to share information and to ensure that the transition process runs as smoothly as possible.

Interim Programme Director

Following discussions with the District Councils on taking forward the proposal for a unified council for Cornwall, Mark Jones, previously Deputy Director for Planning, Transportation and Estates for Cornwall County Council will act as Interim Programme Director. Mark has been closely involved in developing the One Cornwall proposals.

Programme Development Team

The Chief Executives of the seven councils have agreed the arrangements for establishing a Programme Development Team (PDT). The PDT will lead the work required to deliver the transformation to a unified council for Cornwall.

The first step will be to identify a small number of experienced managers to join the PDT. These five Lead Officers will develop the following areas:

- Resources
- People
- Service Design
- External Relations
- Programme Management

If you wish to contact the One Cornwall team, please use the following email address: onecornwall@cornwall.gov.uk Steven Ford can be contacted directly on 01872 322283