

ONECORNWALL

Parish and Town Council Communication

Issue 2: 31st October 2007

This is the second in 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

Completion of Town and Parish Council Meetings

A series of meetings with town and parish councils is now complete. There has been a good response and they have proved extremely useful in engaging with the town and parish councils, raising points and further areas for discussion.

Some of the key points are:

- Many local councils are keen to take on additional powers
- There are still some concerns about some of the community network area boundaries
- There has been a good deal of discussion about the potential relationship between local councils and the community network areas
- Local councils would like more details about how services might be devolved, and what support mechanisms would be in place
- The capacity of local councils to undertake more in their area was an issue that was raised at some of the meetings
- Local councils would like to be kept up to date with the transition process with regular communications
- There was some concern expressed about local councils not being more involved (directly) with the transition process
- Many local councils are very keen to be part of pilot projects across the county

It is important to note that these meetings form only one part of a long-term consultation strategy with local councils that will be crucial in ensuring that we move forward together for the best interests of the people of Cornwall.

Individual Parish and Town Council Survey

The survey is now complete and you should be receiving a copy of this within the next few days. We have received feedback from CALC and several parish and town councils on this survey, and we hope that it provides you with an appropriate format to put across your views on the opportunities and challenges that face us all over the coming months.

Councils' Response to the Government Discussion Paper on Implementation

The county council has responded to the CLG paper asking that a boundary review take place before elections to the new unitary council. This is consistent with the position it took in June to seek discussions with the Government and the Electoral Commission about carrying out a boundary review to increase the number of councillors. This will provide an opportunity to establish electoral divisions which reflect local communities at the start of the new council and as far as possible achieve single member wards.

In contrast the six district councils voted in favour of elections in May 2008. As the Government itself stated in its discussion document the arguments are quite finely balanced. We expect to know the Government's decision towards the end of November.

Establishing a Joint Committee for Implementation

On 9 October the county council agreed to establish an Interim Joint Committee made up of district and county councillors to prepare for transition. The Interim Joint Committee will comprise 12 county councillors and 12 councillors from the six district councils, making a total of 24 members.

The broad terms of reference for the Interim Joint Committee will be;

- To support and promote the One Cornwall proposal for a unified authority for local government in Cornwall
- To provide strategic advice and guidance on the preparations for the implementation of the One Cornwall proposal pending the coming into force of Implementation Orders approved by Parliament.
- ***To involve the town and parish councils in discussions on the structure and implementation from the beginning.***

These will be confirmed by the Committee when it first meets.

Programme Development Team

Initial interim appointments to the One Cornwall Programme Development Team have now been confirmed. These roles will be to scope out the work required and lead on:

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

Further roles within the Programme Development Team are currently being advertised to staff across all seven councils with a view to the full team being in place by the end of the month.

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