



Rt Hon Mrs Ruth Kelly MP
Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON
SW1E 5DU

29th June 2006

Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly - Framing the proposition

Dear Mrs Kelly,

I wrote to you on May 26th setting out in an accompanying memorandum a description of the work which is underway in Cornwall. It is aimed at offering a proposition to you for a new approach to governance for Cornwall which brings together the whole spectrum of public sector service delivery.

Following a recent meeting of the Cornish Constitutional Convention which was attended by officials of Cornwall Council who briefed the Convention on the work ongoing by the Council, and reflecting on the process you may be envisaging, I am writing to ask your advice. When you receive proposals such as those in preparation in Cornwall, what questions will you ask of the proposition, what criteria will you require to be met?

In our analysis, which is founded upon both forming a practicable plan and building a clear and strong consensus, we are approaching the task with three key principles to the fore. As I pointed out in my previous memorandum, they are

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

At the heart of the project is a strong recognition of the need to show real and sustainable efficiencies and a business plan which demonstrates improvements in productivity.

As you know from recent data, Cornwall is mounting a very positive economic recovery – albeit from a very low base. We judge that our proposition will not only show plans to improve productivity in public service delivery, but also, through the arrangements for fulfilling the strategic and promotional role, we will demonstrate improvements in the productivity of the economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We are keen to play as strong a role as we can in leading the drive for productive efficiency in the public sector, and to develop a strong revenue-generating economy to contribute to the costs of services as well.

In pursuing the development of our proposition we are ambitious to harness Cornwall's strong identity and sense of place as key drivers of social, economic and environmental development. We perceive this, together with a strong commitment to making the best use of new technology and developing positive approaches to coping with climate change, as

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being fundamental to our future strategic direction. Therefore, our proposition, which we hope to engage Government Departments in forming, will seek to embody such objectives and to establish a new approach to public sector service delivery which realises them.

It would be helpful to understand if the principles and objectives set out above chime with your view of what criteria you will apply in considering such proposals as the governance project unfolds.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gans gorhemmynadow a'n gwella
(With best wishes)

Bert Biscoe
Chair, Cornish Constitutional Convention