

**PRESS RELEASE**

25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

## Cornish Convention welcomes new white paper Historic opportunity – time to set aside differences and be inclusive

“We welcome publication of the white paper. The invitation to present a proposition for the future management and delivery of public services in Cornwall (and the Isles of Scilly, if it wishes to participate) is unique and historic.

We understand the Government is willing to hear what Cornwall wants to do, and it is expecting a creative proposition.

This is a moment for discussion, consultation, bringing the whole community together to form a strong consensus behind a proposition which is well thought out, gives value for money and streamlines service delivery.

The Cornish Constitutional Convention believes that its proposition, which is enshrined in the **resolution of Cornwall County Council of March 14<sup>th</sup>**, and which reflects work currently underway by the 6 districts, offers the catalyst to bring that consensus together.

Cornwall can only suffer if the present tension between councils persists. The prize for the whole of Cornwall is that we can bring together the whole public sector service delivery portfolio, including health, all tiers of education, local government and other services, into a single organisation tailored to provide efficient, cost-effective and best-value public services, and to lead Cornwall as it develops its role in the modern world.

This is no time to be sentimental about familiar institutions, or to defend fiefdoms – we hope that councils, health trusts, colleges, agencies, quangos and other services will come together to confer on an area-based delivery structure and the formation of a new lean, strategic, democratic Body – a single organisation with a two-tier structure that has strong local accountability.

We advocate that at the heart of the process which should now begin lies three key principles:

- Separate strategy from delivery
- Embed democracy
- Promote local decision-making

Cornwall's five Liberal Democrat MPs have clearly expressed their support for the March 14<sup>th</sup> resolution as the basis upon which to proceed. Time is short. They have laid an Early Day Motion calling on the Government to work with Cornwall in the formation of an innovative and dynamic new structure. It is time to lay aside our difference and work for the future of Cornwall, her prosperity and her communities.

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*Facing Cornwall's future with confidence*