



**Cornish
Constitutional
Convention**
SENEDH KERNOW

**CORNISH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

CONFERENCE CONFIRMS GROWING APPETITE FOR DEVOLUTION

A conference held in Truro last Saturday confirmed the Government's willingness to engage with the issue of devolution for Cornwall. The event was hosted by the Cornish Constitutional Convention, a cross-party organisation campaigning for a Cornish Assembly. It featured guest speakers from the worlds of business, politics and academia, including Camborne, Redruth and Hayle MP George Eustice, now a Minister of State in the new Government.

Over 70 people took their seats in the Council Chamber at County Hall to hear a series of short presentations covering a range of devolution topics, from voter attitudes to devolution in Cornwall, to Cornwall Council's *Case for Cornwall*. The conference concluded with a lively plenary session.

The first speaker, John Ault, a Lecturer at the University of Exeter showed that there was a significant level of support for Cornish devolution in Camborne and Redruth from people supporting a wide range of political parties including UKIP.

Dick Cole, the Leader of Mebyon Kernow outlined his party's views on devolution, emphasising that the call for a Cornish Assembly should ring louder and louder.

Paul Masters, Corporate Director at Cornwall Council told the conference that the Council was asking the Government for a range of powers including the coordination of public transport and the integration of health and social care provision. "The Government's door is open" Mr Masters said.

The President of Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Toby Parkins, said that Cornwall had a fantastic opportunity to move forward.

Finally, George Eustice MP told the conference that the Government acknowledges Cornwall's distinct identity and particular needs. Indeed, Mr Eustice said that the Prime Minister fully backed last year's official recognition of the Cornish as a national minority. Mr Eustice reinforced the message that now was the time for Cornwall to make its case to Government for the transfer of powers.

Speaking after the event, the Chairman of Cornish Constitutional Convention Cllr Julian German said "This has been a really successful conference, demonstrating the momentum for the transfer of powers from Whitehall to Cornwall. We must all work hard now to ensure that the Government's words about devolution are turned into action."

A vimeo encapsulating the conference is available via the Convention's website at < www.cornishassembly.org >

Notes for Editors

[The Cornish Constitutional Convention was formed in November 2000 with the objective of establishing a devolved Assembly for Cornwall (Senedh Kernow).

The Convention is a cross-party, cross-sector association with a strong consensus of support both in Cornwall and elsewhere. It is not campaigning for any form of separatism or independence.

The aim of the Convention is to establish a form of modern governance which strengthens Cornwall, her role in the affairs of the country, and positively addresses the problems that have arisen from more than a century of growing isolation and loss of confidence.

Any questions, call 07932 306940