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The Boundary Committee
Trevelyan House
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17th April 2008

Dear Sirs

Ref : Cornwall Electoral Review – Cornwall Unitary Council

Further to the submissions of Cornwall County Council, Caradon District Council and Callington Town Council regarding the Electoral Review, I would like to make my own comments and recommendations regarding the issue of the Parishes of Callington, Calstock, Stoke Climsland and South Hill.

Firstly with regards to the number of councillors, I feel it is important that we do not suffer from a democratic deficit of not having proper representation for the electorate. Cornwall has a dispersed population, especially in the North, East and far West and given the number of services being provided by this new body, we need to ensure that there is a satisfactory ratio of councillors to population. My recommendation is for 136 councillors, taking into account the 135-seat recommendation set by Caradon District Council, with the following amendment.

The town of Callington has a unique position with regards to this electoral review as, given that most council recommendations are for a council of around 130 for the new unitary council for Cornwall, Callington has the unenviable position that its population puts it right in the middle between one councillor and two councillors. In addition, Callington has been earmarked for major housing development, indeed over 200 homes are currently being built, which will increase the population by some 10% over the next two years alone (currently 6,000 but with a probable 600 increase based on an average occupancy of 3 per household).

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This does not take into account the possible implications of the Regional Spatial Strategy, which calls for over 7,000 new homes for Caradon District over the next fifteen years.

It would be my recommendation to take into account these increases and create proper wards that will be able to cope with the changes while keeping the communities together, a major factor laid down by your body when we were briefed about this review.

It would be my recommendation as follows :-

Callington - split into two wards, either East and West or North and South, covering the whole Parish of Callington. Although the current representation would be approximately 2,300 per councillor, With the increase in population due, this would quite quickly rise up to close to the average required, thus removing the need for another review which might be required within five years.

Calstock – also two wards, probably East and West – again new development is planned for this parish, which will quickly bring the population up towards the average required.

The Parishes of **Stoke Climsland**, **South Hill** and **Linkinhorne** become one ward together – their combined electorate is close to the 3,000 required.

This proposal would clear up the “Callington question” which has caused much discussion from other bodies, give proper representation to the parishes, without a very small parish being “lumped” with a town which might well lead them to be under represented. It would also make the creation of the Community Network Areas, with Callington as one hub, much more equitable, as all the parishes would feed into this hub quite effectively.

I would remind your committee that your recommendations included the advice not to compare council/elector ratio with any other unitary council. We cannot work on a “one size fits all” approach but need to provide a council that reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities and people it represents.

Regarding the other proposals, the Caradon District Council proposal has many merits, but given the advice not to have multi member wards, it would split the community of Callington into two councillors, which goes against the recommendations laid down by your committee.

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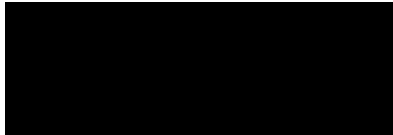
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The County Council proposal is even worse, in that it splits up two parishes, Callington and Calstock and makes no allowance for the structure of Kit Hill, which would effectively split the Kelly Bray part of the new ward from the rest. This would be unworkable. In addition, linking Linkinhorne with St Ive would mean that the Community Area Networks would need to be re-drawn also.

In conclusion, I would urge your committee to accept these amendments to the Caradon proposal, and to recommend the 136-member council as laid out above.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Andrew Long
Callington Town Council
Caradon District Council