

## Paul Kingsley

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**From:** German Julian CC [jgerman@cornwall.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 14 April 2008 18:14  
**To:** Paul Kingsley  
**Cc:** Brown Malcolm (CH Execs)  
**Subject:** Cornwall Electoral Review

Dear Paul Kingsley,

This is my submission to the Electoral Review for Cornwall.

It is my strong belief that single member wards provide better representation for the electorate. My electoral division encompasses two District Council wards. The Roseland has two District Councillors, one of which attends no public or Parish Council meetings. The Probus District Council ward has three District Councillors and I rarely see any of them at public or Parish meetings. It is my sincere belief that the public are getting poor representation, as well as poor value for money.

With single Member wards there is no opportunity for "passing the buck". It may be that a Councillor is elected who does not serve the community well, but with single member wards at least the electorate can see this and act upon it if they so wish.

Multi-member wards are confusing for the electorate, and can also be problematic for Officers. Members may have differing ideas as to what is best for their community, making the Officers job all the more difficult. Multi-member wards are more likely to be lacking in clear direction.

With regard to the proposals for my particular Electoral Division [This relates to the proposal for 130 Members and the split which follows. There will not be time to make representation on an alternative if the Interim Joint Executive decide on a different number to their own working group] I am unhappy that it is proposed to split a strong Community identity. The Roseland has long been considered a community (google the Roseland for further information / evidence if you wish). This strong community identity is made of the core Parishes of St Just in Roseland, Philleigh, St Gerrans with St Anthony, Veryan, Ruan Laniorne. Often Treony and Cuby are considered to be part of the Roseland as well. The 130 Member proposal sees Veryan split from the core, along with Tregony and Cuby to make a new Electoral Division with Grampond, Ladock and St Michael Caerhayes.

The proposed Electoral Division 61 - St Michael Penkivel et al - is 19 miles long. I believe that this size Division would be unacceptable in terms of difference of area that Members would need to cover, with most Divisions being vastly smaller than this. This is a large Ward in the current Cornwall Council, so if there is to be 50 more Members, this Ward would be disproportionate in size.

I would propose a ward constituting St Just in Roseland, Philleigh, Gerrans with St Anthony, Veryan, Ruan Laniorne, Tregony and St Cuby (approx 3,800) and another ward comprising St Clement, St Michael Penkivel, Ladock, Grampond with Creed, St Michael Caerhayes (approx 2,900) . This would give two contained geographical entities which relate to one another.

It was pleasing to see that St Clement and St Michael Penkivel have both been placed as looking eastward from Truro. Both Parishes have strong rural identities and feel strongly that they should be placed with similar rural Parishes to the east, rather than the urban centre to the west. However the Ward boundaries are finally constructed, I would strongly counsel that St Michael Penkivel and St Clements are partnered with other rural Parishes, rather than the urban centre of Truro.

In relation to the total number of Councillors for the new Cornwall Council, I believe it is important

to understand what structures would be best placed to serve the people of Cornwall. However, it would appear that an executive style leadership will be put forward by the Joint Implementation Executive. If this is the case, then my opinion would be that the suitable number of Councillors would be, at most 90, allowing for population growth. If the Council is to be an executive style leadership, then frontline Councillors will be concerned mostly about their casework. Being full time, suitably remunerated and resourced, this would allow for Members to have larger Wards than at present.

I hope that this is of some use to you in your deliberations. If I can be of any further assistance, then please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Julian German

Cornwall Councillor  
Roseland Electoral Division

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