

Cllr John Pollard
Leader, Cornwall Council
New County Hall
Treyew Road
Truru
Cornwall
TR1 3AY

19 January 2016

Dear Cllr ~~Pollard~~ *Dear John,*

Electoral review of Cornwall Council

I undertook to convey to fellow Commissioners the matters that you raised at our meeting on 5 January in respect of Cornwall's electoral review, specifically your request that we extend the stage of the review that considers council size in order that you can undertake a fundamental review of that aspect, informed by the ambitious plans that you have for the Council going forward. The Commission held its monthly meeting this morning and the purpose of this letter is to let you know the outcome of our discussion.

The Commission considered the points raised in your letter of 4 December 2015 and the representations you made directly at our meeting. After careful consideration, the Commission is persuaded that the Council wishes to use the opportunity of the electoral review to ask some deep and fundamental questions about how local government for Cornwall should operate in the future and, especially, the number of councillors that will be required to run the authority. In the circumstances, and given your ambitions for the review, the Commission has, exceptionally, agreed to extend the deadline for submission of your finalised case to March 2017. New electoral arrangements would, therefore, come into effect at the local elections in 2021 unless the council opted to seek permission for an out-of-turn election.

Extending the time for the Council to consider council size should not delay the start of that process and it is important, as we agreed when we met, to maintain the momentum you have already generated on the review. To that end, I propose that Commission officers continue with the current plan to brief all members of the Council, staff and the working group during the next few weeks. In addition, you indicated that a follow-up meeting with the working group later in the year (possibly in the summer) might be appropriate to assess progress and also that you would be in a position to provide a first draft submission towards the end of 2016. I believe that the latter would be helpful to all concerned. I am

happy to commit staff from the Commission to take part in the briefing meeting(s) as well as providing ongoing advice throughout the review.

Given the obvious appetite for change, the new timetable means that we will complete the council size stage of the review in advance of the local elections in 2017. The March 2017 deadline for submissions for the council's case(s) on council size will avoid deliberations continuing into the election and purdah period which is standard Commission practice.

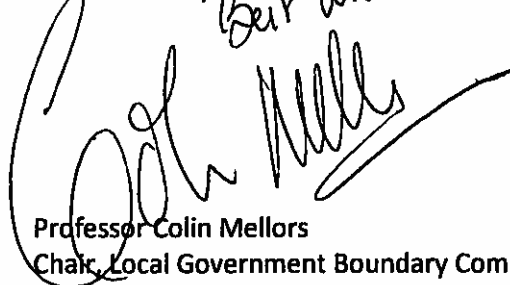
Following submission of your case(s) on council size, the Commission will deliberate over the subsequent weeks and announce its view following the elections when we will begin work on drawing up new division boundaries.

I hope you agree that the amended timetable balances the need for the Council and its partners to give thorough consideration to the future of local government in Cornwall with our own duty to address the electoral imbalances that currently exist alongside desire both sides share to retain and build on the momentum already generated by the review. We look forward to working collaboratively with you on this important review.

Finally, I append the new timetable which you will no doubt wish to share with appropriate colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Mellors', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Professor Colin Mellors

Chair, Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Electoral review of Cornwall council: timetable

Stage	Date
Initial Meetings – including full council briefing, group leaders and working group, parish councils and officers	February – April 2016
Follow up working group meeting	<i>Summer 2016 tbc</i>
Submission of draft council size proposal(s)	14 October 2016
Submission of second draft council size proposal(s)	16 December 2016
Submission of final council size proposal(s)	3 March 2017
Council Size decision & announcement	16 May 2017
Division Patterns Consultation	16 May 2017 – 31 July 2017
Draft Recommendations published	24 October 2017
Draft Recommendations Consultation	24 October 2017 – 19 December 2017
Final Recommendations published	27 March 2018
Order Laid in Parliament	April 2018
Implementation	Local elections 2021

