

## How many councillors for Cornwall?

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is carrying out an electoral review of Cornwall Council.

The first part of this electoral review is for the Commission to decide how many councillors should be elected to Cornwall Council in future.

Cornwall Council currently has 123 councillors. The Commission is proposing that the council should have 87 councillors in future.

Before we take a formal decision, we are asking for local views on the proposal.

## Background

The electoral review will decide four things:

- Total number of councillors elected to the council.
- Boundaries of all electoral divisions represented by councillors.
- Number of councillors elected to each division.
- The name of each division.

Before we start to draw new division boundaries across Cornwall, the Commission will take a view on the total number of councillors for Cornwall in the future. We are asking for your help to decide that number.

## Our proposal: 87 councillors for Cornwall Council

The Commission proposes that Cornwall Council should have 87 councillors in future.

The Commission has considered evidence from Cornwall Council, councillors and local political parties about how the council takes decisions, how people are represented and how things might change in the future.

All the submissions received by the Commission proposed that there should be a reduction in the total number of councillors. The evidence suggested that a reduction in councillors would help the council improve the way it takes decisions and sets priorities for Cornwall.

Fewer councillors would also reflect the council's ambition to transfer responsibilities to Parish and Town Councils and for all levels of local government in Cornwall to work together effectively.

The Commission agrees that the evidence points towards a reduction in the number of councillors elected to Cornwall Council. However, the submissions included evidence to support different proposed numbers (ranging from 85 to 113).

The Commission proposes that 87 councillors should represent Cornwall in future because it would both reflect the evidence we received to support an overall reduction in numbers but also allows new electoral divisions potentially to fit well with the existing Community Networks. Cornwall's Community Networks bring together the council, Town and Parish Councils and others in defined geographic areas across the county.

## Public consultation

The Commission has not taken a final decision on the number of councillors for Cornwall. We want to hear your views on our proposal before we move to the next stage of the review. Some questions to consider as part of this consultation are:

1. Do you think 87 is the right number of councillors to be able to take decisions effectively?
2. Would a council size of 87 enable the Council to represent the interests of all Cornwall's communities?
3. If you don't agree that Cornwall should be represented by 87 councillors, what would your alternative number be, and why?

You do not have to answer the questions directly but you might find them helpful in putting together a consultation response.

## Have your say

This consultation is open to any organisation, local group or person who is interested in how Cornwall is led over the coming years.

Feel free to share this note with anyone else who might be interested in the consultation.

Please send your responses to:

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Consultation portal: [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk) (where you can directly type your submission or upload documents)

Post: Review Officer (Cornwall)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> floor, Millbank Tower  
London SW1P 4QP

There is plenty of information on our website ([www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)) to help you make a submission including the evidence we received in the previous phase of the review.

This consultation is open now and closes at midnight on **7 August 2017**.

## What happens next?

The Commission will consider all the responses to this consultation and publish all responses on its website shortly after it closes.

In September 2017, the Commission will publish its formal view on the number of councillors for Cornwall. At the same time, it will open the first of two phases of public consultation on new division boundaries.

We plan to finalise new electoral arrangements (number of councillors and all division boundaries) in July 2018 with the new set up coming into effect at the scheduled local elections in May 2021.

13 June – 7 August 2017	Public consultation on number of councillors
September – December 2017	Public consultation on new division boundaries
March – May 2018	Public consultation on draft recommendations
July 2018	Final recommendations published
May 2021	New arrangements come into effect