

## **Cross Party Group on the UK: Changing Union**

Minutes: 11 June 2014 Meeting, 8.30-9.30am, Conference Room 24, Ty Hywel

Members: David Melding AM (Chair), Mike Hedges AM, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Simon Thomas AM, Professor Richard Wyn Jones (Director, Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff University), Llew Williams (Project Coordinator UK Changing Union, Group Secretary).

Present: David Melding AM (Chair) Mike Hedges AM, Simon Thomas AM Prof Richard Wyn Jones

Apologies: Llew Williams (Secretary)

External invitees: A full list of external attendees can be found at the end of the minutes.

### **1. Welcome**

Chair welcomed members and external invitees to the meeting of the Cross Party Group on UK Changing Union.

### **2. Guest speaker: Professor Alan Trench**

Chair welcomed the Cross Party Group's guest speaker for the meeting, Professor Alan Trench who gave a talk on how fiscal and welfare devolution can benefit Wales and strengthen the Union. Professor Trench also discussed his work on the Devo More project, a project facilitated by the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Professor Trench then took questions from the audience. Some of the matters that were referred to included the devolution of corporation tax, concerns that there isn't "proper" data on tax and spend levels in Wales, and the continuity of the social democratic model of welfare in Wales.

### **3. Close of meeting**

Chair thanked Professor Trench for his contributions. Chair duly closed the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: 0830AM 16 July 2014, Conf Rm 24, Ty Hywel

List of external invitees who attended:

Robin Lewis- Office of Christine Chapman AM

Tomos Davies- Office of David Melding AM

Sian Donne- Welsh Liberal Democrats Group Staff

Gareth Clubb- Friends of the Earth

Tim Ruscoe- Barnardos

Hugh Rawlings- Welsh Government

Carys Evans- Welsh Government

Angharad Richards- Welsh Government

Rachel Bowen- FSB

Annabelle Harle- Office of Mark Drakeford AM

Emma Gammon- Welsh Government

Alex McMillian- RNIB

Richard Bettley- National Assembly for Wales Research Service

Sian Richards- National Assembly for Wales

Ed Poole- London School of Economics/Visitor at Wales Governance Centre

Aaron Hill- Community Housing Cymru

Kay Powell- Law Society

David Hughes- European Commission

Gareth Morgan- Welsh Government

Luke Nicholas- Plaid Cymru Group

Aime Jordan- Welsh Liberal Democrats Group

Bethan Robers- Welsh Government