

Cross Party Group on the UK: Changing Union

Minutes: 22 October 2014 Meeting, 8.30-9.30am, Conference Room 21, 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, Llew Williams (Secretary), Julie Morgan AM, Mick Antoniw AM, Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Robin Lewis on behalf of Christine Chapman AM

Apologies: Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Simon Thomas AM

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 noting that this was the first meeting of the new term. The chair noted that he was pleased to welcome the guest speaker, Professor Michael Kenny from Queen Mary University London who was present to discuss England.

2. Guest speaker: Professor Michael Kenny, QMUL

Professor Kenny talked about the emerging visibility of Englishness which he noted predated devolution in 1990s. He also noted the significant rise in hostility linked to London with Englishness.

Professor Kenny also mentioned that there also positives to English political identity, include matters on place and locality, and the diversity of England itself. Professor Kenny also said that ethnic minorities are included within a growing sense of 'Englishness' but the big divide is with Muslim communities.

The chair then took questions to the panel from the invited audience. The topics that were raised included what can be done to address the disgruntlement the English feel, how does the Labour party react to the findings of the Future of England Survey, and would there be a move in English sentiment from the European Union towards the Commonwealth.

3. Close of meeting

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

Date of the next meeting: To be confirmed

List of external invitees who attended:

David Hughes	European Commission
Adam Evans	Cardiff University
Ed Poole	Cardiff University
Luke Nicholas	Plaid Cymru Group Staff
Nick Wall	Office of Mick Antoniw AM
Elisabeth Jones	National Assembly
Peter Short	Unison
Lola Tiphagne	Cardiff University
Sara Rees	National Assembly
Josh Hayman	Older People's Commissioner's Office
Adam Jones	Cardiff University
Marie Pilard	Cardiff University
Josselin Juncker	Cardiff University
Mailys Rousseau	Cardiff University
Rebecca Owen	National Assembly
Matthew Richards	National Assembly
Klara Banaszak	National Assembly