

YES WE DO BELIEVE IN WALES
WE BELIEVE IN A WALES THAT IS PART OF A BRITAIN THAT IS
INDEPENDENT AND SELF-GOVERNING
WE BELIEVE IN A BRITAIN THAT
CONTROLS ITS BORDERS
PROPERLY AND SENSIBLY.

RAISING THE DRAGON

WE BELIEVE IN A BRITAIN WHERE NO LONGER DO
THE TOP THREE OR FOUR PERCENT HOLD ALL
PRIVILEGES, AND GROWING INEQUALITY.
WE BELIEVE IN A BRITAIN OF
SOCIAL MOBILITY.

WE BELIEVE IN A BRITAIN THAT GETS AN EVEN BREAK.
IF YOU BELIEVE IN BRITAIN.
IF YOU ARE PATRIOTIC.

IF YOU BELIEVE A CAREER POLITICAL CLASS HAS LET US DOWN.
THEN COME WITH UKIP ON THIS JOURNEY.
COME WITH US AND LET'S PUT SOME
HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND

REAL PEOPLE
BACK INTO BRITISH POLITICS.

UKIP MANIFESTO

WELSH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2016

A STRONG VOICE FOR WALES

– NIGEL FARAGE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Wales can do so much better. UKIP wants to make devolution work. The failing record under seventeen years of near-one party rule means we need a new Assembly and a fresh approach with UKIP standing for common sense.

UKIP accepts the decision of two Welsh referendums on devolution. However, we believe that the Cardiff Bay establishment is trying to take us much further than agreed by the people of Wales in 2011.

THE WALES BILL

UKIP opposes the Wales Bill because it is incoherent and we believe that the reserved powers model as proposed will create unstoppable pressure for a separate legal jurisdiction. This would be expensive and break up the current England and Wales jurisdiction which has served us well for nearly half a millennium.

AN INFLUENTIAL WALES IN A STRONG UK

UKIP acknowledges that there has been insufficient scrutiny in the Welsh Assembly, but we do not support the expensive increase in the number of Assembly members (AMs) being proposed by the other parties. Instead, we support a "joined up" government approach involving Welsh Westminster MPs, whose pay has been increased while their responsibilities have been cut, as well as local councillors.

Welsh MPs are now excluded from most England-only matters which have been devolved to the Assembly in Wales. UKIP believes that, while there remain forty Welsh MPs, their resulting free time means that MPs can be used to assist the Assembly in Cardiff. Including local councillors in the process could also help ensure that grassroots concerns are considered more accurately and comprehensively in the pre-legislative process. Drawing on both groups will save money.

UKIP pledges to:

- involve Welsh Westminster MPs in pre-legislative scrutiny of legislation prior to its formal passage through the Welsh Assembly, at least until their numbers are reduced
- invite all Welsh councils to appoint one or two councillors to a panel whose members would be available to assist Assembly Committees in oversight of Welsh ministers and government, thus
- avoiding any costly increase in the number of AMs
- end the constitutional navel-gazing which both threatens the integrity of the UK and distracts AMs and Welsh ministers from delivering key public services such as health and education.

REAL DEVOLUTION

UKIP believes that the other parties have forgotten what devolution is really for. What we have in Cardiff is a Whitehall-in-the-Bay model. There has been no effort to explore any devolution models other than transferring yet more power to the Assembly.

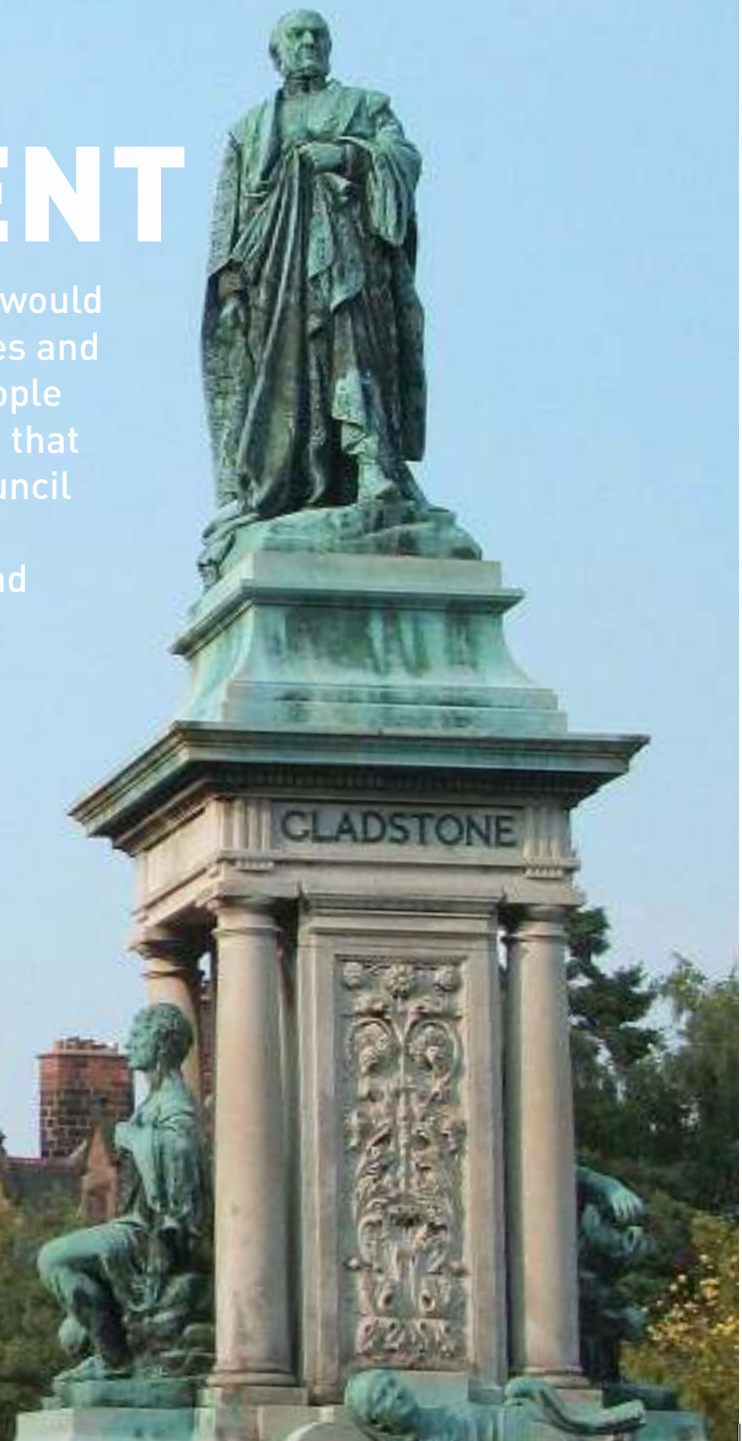
We will be having a referendum on 23rd June on our EU membership, which would not be happening were it not for UKIP. If, as our party fervently believes, the people of Wales and the UK vote to 'Leave' then we will get powers back from Brussels, not just to Westminster, but in some cases to Cardiff Bay, and in many others to local people and communities.

UKIP pledges to:

- promote devolution to local councils and communities
- devolve power from Cardiff Bay to local councils, e.g. over economic development
- devolve some powers currently exercised in Brussels, e.g. fishing to Wales after a 'Leave' vote
- always seek to devolve powers to the lowest possible level
- make St David's Day a bank holiday

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

UKIP believes that more accountable local government would better enable each county and city to prioritise resources and to make decisions about its own services. With local people generally not supporting elected mayors, UKIP believes that our democracy should be enhanced by restoring the council committee system. We strongly support a major shift in power from the Welsh Assembly to local government and communities across Wales.



REAL DEVOLUTION TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

UKIP believes that nothing in our society is more important than open, democratic, honest governance. Without this basic foundation, no other aspects within our society can operate openly or fairly. The real devolution challenge here in Wales is to place decision-making and genuine power directly into the hands of the people.

Contrary to the spirit of transparency that politicians promised devolution would bring, those in charge have subverted the relationship between government and the people they are meant to serve. Just as the Welsh Assembly is becoming merely a pale imitation of Westminster, local councils are too often officer led. Many people have come to feel that there is little point in local government if they have to implement the same Welsh Government policies on education, social services, environment policies and other devolved aspects.

UKIP believes that mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure that councils with a one-party hegemony nevertheless maintain a healthy democracy in which opposition councillors have the power to challenge the executive when necessary.

We believe that, in local government as well as in the Assembly, we need to foster a democracy where decisions are not made via slavish adherence to party line and party block votes.

UKIP pledges to:

- devolve important decision-making powers from Cardiff Bay to local authorities
- dismantle the 'cabinet' system of governance, which puts too much power in the hands of too few people, and introduce a committee system to bring openness, transparency and cross-party work
- ensure that any mergers of local councils are the result of bottom-up decisions involving local people, rather than top-down imposition by the Welsh government

DEFENDING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

In some authorities, council tax rises over 2015-16 have been many times higher than inflation. The UK Government previously acted to freeze council tax in England by offering local authorities subsidies in exchange for keeping bills down. The Welsh Labour government has failed to do the same, instead allowing councils to raise bills by up to 5%.

UKIP pledges to:

- support lower Council Tax
- improve local democracy by introducing the single transferrable vote to ensure more proportional representation of the local electorate
- give local people control over planning, by allowing them the final say on major planning decisions, such as out-of-town large-scale supermarket developments, wind turbines, incinerators, solar farms and major housing developments, through the use of binding local referenda
- cut excessive allowances for councillors, slash outrageous pay deals and golden handshakes for council executives
- establish joint scrutiny committees to allow constituent councils to scrutinise the work of locally elected health boards, notably the integration of health and social services
- oppose excessive development and actively seek to protect our countryside and green spaces
- adopt a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour and crack down on nuisance and noisy neighbours
- make the setting up of a traveller pitch without permission illegal
- save money through a more efficient housing benefit system. For example, over three years a total of £6.6 million of overpaid housing benefits in Wales was written off, having been handed out in error