

## STATEMENT FROM YESCYMRU

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**It has become clear over the last year or so that the present organisational structure of YesCymru has not been the most effective and many difficulties have arisen as a result. We thus urge our members to consider a major change of governance that will better serve our grassroots movement in its aim for Independence for Wales. A more balanced organisational structure is proposed so that power is more evenly shared, cannot be so easily centralised and defects in any part of the organisation kept in check by its other component parts.**

**At the forthcoming EGM at Builth Wells, we will go through the new constitution that was proposed at our recent 2018 AGM, item by item as agreed, albeit accepting those changes already agreed at Burry Port, including the decision that Yes Cymru should form a limited company.**

**We propose a more balanced and horizontal relationship between the constituent parts that make up Yes Cymru, countering the tendency of the previous constitution towards the centralising of decision-making power and finances, and its top-down bureaucratic pretensions, so exasperating to the broader membership. In preparation for our EGM on December 8th, we ask you to consider the following items relating to the necessary restructuring of the Yes Cymru constitution.**

**We propose the following changes:**

#### **A. Central Committee**

**The reduction of the Central Committee - from its previous number of sixteen to eight, and the curtailing of its role to an administrative function (along the lines of the kind of 'Yes Cymru Office' that we aim to develop as we increase resources.) The new Central Committee would be responsible for helping organise the AGM and other large events; take responsibility for finances, and their distribution to Groups; the sourcing of materials and their distribution to members; membership applications, dealing with post, and the running of all of the main media accounts.**

#### **B. National Committee**

**The National Committee was added to our previous constitution as a means to give Groups a voice, with a view to impacting decisions made by the Central Committee. The National Committee was thus comprised of a mixture of representatives of Local Groups, and offers from the Central Committee. In practice this delivered very little of value, and proved only a token concession to democracy. The device of sending a 'representative' from each**

**officially-constituted Group to sporadic National Committee meeting managed to exclude the vast majority of our membership, who are not involved in the running of local Yes Cymru groups.**

**We propose that the National Committee transform into the National Congress, becoming the largest and most powerful component of Yes Cymru, serving as its main democratic and decision-making body. The National Congress would comprise every single member of Yes Cymru as equals, elect its own officers, decide the overall strategy and direction of the movement in strict accordance with the constitution, and should hold four large gatherings per year, meeting quarterly.**

**We ask that you consider these matters carefully, and request your feedback on the prospective character and set-up of the National Congress - its officers, procedures, and so forth.**

### **C. Limited Company & the Constitution**

**As agreed at the Burry Port AGM, Yes Cymru will form a Limited Company. With this new component of Yes Cymru in place, the organisation will have added considerably to its toolkit of possible options, including the now very obvious need to disperse much of the dominating role of the Central Committee as previously constituted.**

**Yes Cymru Limited Company, being removed from all other practical and strategic roles, would be tasked with safeguarding the principles of the constitution, and enforcing those where necessary in the form of whatever disciplinary procedures may be required.**

### **D. Local Groups**

**The new constitutional set-up aims towards a more horizontal equalised relationship between Yes Cymru's component parts, and this includes having to reconsider in some depth the role of Local Groups. We want to empower activists at grassroots level, and request your feedback with ideas on how best to achieve this growth and development, taking into consideration respect for the roles and responsibilities of the other components of Yes Cymru, and all within strict observance of our founding principles and constitution.**

**The aim of these organisational proposals is for more democracy, transparency and openness in Yes Cymru rather than the opaque centralisation of power in a central committee and the tendency to project authority onto it. The system of checks and balances between the different components of Yes Cymru will further safeguard the movement.**

**We sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will share your views and look forward to seeing you at the EGM.**

**Leon Russell**