



Communiqué

Summit - Guernsey – 13th June 2014

The British-Irish Council, established under the 1998 Multi-Party Agreement, held its twenty-second Summit meeting today, hosted by the Government of Guernsey's Chief Minister Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq, in the St. Pierre Park Hotel, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

The heads of delegations were welcomed by Deputy Le Tocq, Chief Minister. The Irish Government delegation was led by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny TD. The UK Government delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP. The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA, and the deputy First Minister, Mr Martin McGuinness MLA. The Welsh Government delegation was led by the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Ms Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM. The Scottish Government delegation was led by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP. The Government of Jersey delegation was led by the Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst, and the Isle of Man Government delegation was led by the Chief Minister, Hon Allan Bell MHK.

A full list of delegation members is attached.

The British-Irish Council continues to play a unique and important role in furthering, promoting and developing links between its Member Administrations through positive, practical relationships and in providing a forum for consultation and exchange of information on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the relevant Member Administrations.

The Economy

The Council discussed the current economic situation in Member Administrations. The Member Administrations discussed the various initiatives

that were in place to stimulate the economy. The Council acknowledged the value of the discussions in relation to the economy.

The Economic Importance of transport links

The Council held a detailed discussion on the economic importance of transport links. The discussion focused on how the promotion of effective transport links between Member Administrations can be beneficial to their economic development and the strengthening of positive and practical relationships amongst the people of these islands. The Council discussed how the Member Administrations' strategic development initiatives inter-relate in order to promote efficient and effective travel and trade between the jurisdictions.

Update on Work Sectors

The Council received an update of the work that had taken place across each of the twelve work sectors since the last Summit in November 2013.

In particular, they welcomed the paper produced by the Collaborative Spatial Planning work sector setting out the various positions of Member Administrations; noted the challenges and opportunities set out in the paper; and requested that officials continue to work collaboratively via the group to identify opportunities to work more closely with other BIC work sectors.

The Council also reviewed the latest youth employment statistics and welcomed the recent encouraging trends.

BIC Secretariat

The Council noted the Secretariat's progress against its business plan. It welcomed the publication of the Council's Annual Report for 2013. The Council noted that the branding for BIC had been refreshed and was being used at this Summit for the first time.

Date and Location of the Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the Isle of Man Government in November 2014.

BIC Secretariat
13 June 2014

List of Delegates

<u>Government of Guernsey</u>	
Chief Minister	Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq
Minister for the Commerce & Employment Department	Deputy Kevin Stewart
Minister for the Public Services Department	Deputy Paul Luxon
<u>Irish Government</u>	
An Taoiseach	Mr Enda Kenny TD
<u>UK Government</u>	
Deputy Prime Minister	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport	Mr Robert Goodwill MP
<u>Northern Ireland Executive</u>	
First Minister	Rt Hon Peter D Robinson MLA
deputy First Minister	Mr Martin McGuinness MLA
Minister for Regional Development	Mr Danny Kennedy MLA
<u>Scottish Government</u>	
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for External Affairs and International Development	Mr Humza Yousaf MSP
<u>Welsh Government</u>	
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport	Ms Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM
<u>Government of Jersey</u>	
Chief Minister	Senator Ian Gorst
Minister for Transport and Technical Services	Deputy Kevin Lewis
<u>Isle of Man Government</u>	
Chief Minister	Hon Allan Bell MHK
Minister for Infrastructure	Hon Laurence Skelly MHK