

Why should we care about Europe in Liverpool,
Merseyside and the North West?

Report

18 JANUARY 2020



European Parliament
Liaison Department in the United Kingdom

In partnership with:



European
Movement
United Kingdom

The Invitation

This is your day. A unique opportunity to tell us what matters about living and working in Liverpool, Merseyside and the North West; and the relevance of Europe.

The United Kingdom will soon be negotiating its future relationship with Europe. We want to hear what matters to you about where you live and work, so we can connect with what effect Europe has on everyday life and how leaving Europe is likely to impact on you.

We hear a lot about the “Single Market”, “The European Medicines Agency” and “Euratom” and how freedom of movement is so beneficial for all of us. What are the key issues for you about leaving the European Union? Has being in Europe made your life easier, better and more rewarding? If so, how? If not, why not? In what way would you like your relationship with Europe to be preserved, developed or improved going forward?

This event is designed for people who can tell us about their work, their family, their friends and neighbours, their passions, their local community, and if being part of Europe has made a difference in one or more of these areas; we want you to ask questions and share your thoughts about the future.

What you say will shape how the event is run. The aim is to stimulate action and develop awareness within our local communities of how being in the European Union has benefited the North West, to encourage other people to form their own positive links with Europe and develop a vision for the future.

The day will follow the dynamic format of Open Space Technology, facilitated by Improbable, internationally renowned as one of the UK’s most experienced Open Space Technology facilitators. Open Space is a great way for groups to think, talk and take action together.

This event is part of the Together.eu campaign, the purpose of which is to meet, debate and act to help shape the Europe we want. To stay in touch with the campaign beyond this event please sign up as a volunteer at www.europarl.europa.eu/together/en/

Please share this invitation with people you know, bring a friend and we especially encourage you to bring someone you know who thinks differently to you on Europe. We want a diversity of voices in the room. You set the agenda, nothing is censored, every voice gets heard.

#TogetherEU

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This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the participants in the Open Space Technology event held on 18 January 2020 in Liverpool, as an account of the ideas and proposals discussed at that meeting and to assist in any follow-up actions. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its various authors (the participants) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2019.

Action: Europe Club

We are setting up a "Europe Club - Liverpool"

We will meet at the World Museum cafe at 2pm on Saturday 1st February (we may then continue on the 1st Saturday of each month).

If you can't get to the meeting but want to give us input, especially about using social media, please email your comments to george@woodlands-web.com and I'll also add you to the mailing list.

There is also a Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/167282857924702/

This is a Private group, so only members can see who is in the group and read what they post. However, it is Visible, so anyone searching for it will be able to find it, but then only see the heading but not any of the posts. All members can post, create events and invite their friends to become members.



Report: What is wrong with Europe?

Is there something wrong with Europe, or is it just the UK?

History

- EU was founded to stop war, and to help nations recover at the end of WWII (this is forgotten)
- There were 2 new countries with new constitutions and bad damage – Italy and Germany, and the others in a v. bad state
- Elements of what Mussolini did were positive – his populism gave people finite results
- EU was a success, and has fulfilled the original vision, but then coasted, without a new overarching vision equivalent to the old one, and not adapting to the changing world
- People now take it for granted – and it's seen as an abstract entity
- The Greek economic crisis was very divisive – countries over-stepped the boundaries of behaviour

Challenges – what it has got wrong

- People don't like big – they like small communities and there is a sense of separation
- Populism has risen all around Europe – challenge
- Globalisation is taking power away from the individual
- Realpolitik and the balance of Power. Russia and China are rising, US interest is decreasing (Italy got rich from US bases).
- The geopolitical situation is in flux - Russia has lost interest in Europe (?) but everyone else (capitalists) would like to see it splinter so they can grab the pieces
- What is the New World Order ? (is it a New Age ?)
- From the EU side there is a lack of communication. They do not communicate. True in-depth info is very difficult to get.
- There are 3 main “planetary forces”
 1. Globalisation demands the free flow of capital, open markets for products, and is the driving force for exploitation of all types
 2. Internationalism is the agencies and orgs, like the EU and UN bodies, charities, etc, which are the components of international civil society
 3. The internet is a sort of global mind
- Perhaps it would be better if the International bodies controlled and managed globalization and the internet, but at the moment there is little interest in this or ability to do it, and Europe is only a small component of this global situation
- Europe / Brussels was taken over by experts and bureaucrats
- The set of compromises that have been made (all for good reason) have compromised the viability of the EU
- Maybe the original “design of Europe” was too bureaucratic and too monolithic
- Communication hasn't been good from the EU – either too bland to please everybody, or very technical
- Austerity has been very damaging (has it led to populism ?) as largely it has been unnecessary, but people have suffered a lot

- The jobs that were exported to the far east if they returned, the factories would be fully automated and would only employ a small number of technicians, not the thousands of machine minders and “hands” that they had previously
- So what are the “spare people” to do who are not needed in the post-industrial world
- Being part of the EU is costly, but the costs and benefits are hidden

These are all challenging for the EU and admittedly, the Council of Ministers would find it had to grasp the nettle and make decisions on some of these

UK problems

These were also mentioned. In brief – lack of foresight – false priorities – misunderstanding of the situation – inability to do consensus – out of control media, etc

Possible ways forward

- There is nothing wrong with Europe – and there are challenges as above
- EU-centred internet services – search engine, social media
- We have no source of reliable news – could the EU have a central media service which is the “honest broker” for the world (like the BBC used to be in Britain)
- Regionalism would increase sense of local identity, but would the Nation States allow this, even though federalism seems to work better !
- Federal Europe
- Each citizen is valuable
- Quite a few UK citizens would like to have EU citizenship !
- We need a development plan for the developed world (as in many ways it is under-developed)

Report: What is wrong with Europe?

Why is the European fragmenting? Origin. War, Europe destroyed, no union! Bring countries together. Countries are different but need to find a unifying EU identity. We are now dividing and turning inside. People don't like big. We like small communities. Hard to find a common thing if we are big. Forgot the reason why we need to be together.

People are worried to lose identity. Globalization. Take power away from the individual. Globalization is not European but it is perceived as such.

Many things are wrong. Let's be radical ... The question is wrong. There is nothing wrong with Europe. Things around Europe are wrong. Populism, digital age ... Dangerous mistakes Too early!!!

Past success and inability to adapt to a changing world. We are guilty of arrogance as a continent. Lost its organising vision of post war era. The original vision has been achieved and now we don't have another one. Partly right ... Vision that plan exist

Lack of communication. People ... Young for example take the EU for granted. From the EU side there is a lack of communication. They do not communicate. Information. True in depth info is very difficult to get.

Regionalism! Hidden issue. Differences between different regions. For example Germany is a federal republic. Britain does not have a federal structure and this is not good. Two forces. Globalization and internationalization. International structures become very old and not functioning. Basis of globalization is that capital should be free to move.

Education. What the EU could do? Different forces! Different vision.

I never knew anything without the EU. EU is a force that could protect us from the effect of globalization. We didn't have an EU equivalent of a search engine. Why everything is USA. Chris says that there is a search engine called Qwant. So it's people's choice. It's private. So, social media are powerful and are not EU! This is bad.

Favour a federal Europe. Like Germany. He doesn't want to lose identity, local identity. Identity has been eroded. Where is this erosion coming from? EU didn't explain what it is. Why?

Europe has boundaries that are decided communally. These boundaries ... Greece., Crisis ... Big financial effort ... Altruism. People were scared that these would result in a decrease of their quality of life. Being part of the EU is actually costly. Needs altruism. People do not have that.

Agents are member states. Political commitment. In UK has been politically convenient not to talk about the EU. He propose progressive politics! He says that this is going to be the key. (I am not sure he knows what this means).

Report: Collaboration better than Competition

In summary, we felt that there was a need for both collaboration and competition (with the question of the day in mind), and that there needs to be a balance.

The EU manage competition, and compromise a result – it is a happy compromise, we were trying to find the right word – like win-win, but not!

Compromise has been given a bad name, so it's not seen as good. Competition has the connotation of winner takes all. We felt that the winner takes all attitude is bad, and is not democratic. Fluidity of progressive society.



Report: Defragmentation - how can we bring the groups together?

By “the groups”, we mean the grassroots groups that have formed since the referendum, and have done so much good campaigning work over the last 2-3 years.

The discussion included becoming apolitical amongst the groups, and it was felt that politics had crept into the grassroots groups/movements.

We (“remain”) are to be judge and jury – the government have to own Brexit, and to be held to account. We felt that shining a light on all the good that happens in the UK. An aspect in our favour could be the new Tory MPs that didn’t expect to be elected – it could take them time to get up to speed, and also they can be approached to hold the government to account.

There are Liverpool initiatives to remain European, with a plan to “twin” with cities in the EU27. Lancaster for Europe did say that at one time, town twinning was big, and that this could be revived.

Our conclusions were to keep the soft links open. Keep the exchanges going, and we asked the EP Liaison office not to forget about us, we need moral support at the moment, and that will move to practical support at some point.



Report: Why the human tribal instinct is fragmenting Europe

Tribal behaviours achieve the survival and security of a species or of a species sub-group. Tribalistic qualities in humans can be a mixture - typically of physical abilities, intellectual abilities and skills, historical knowledge, belief systems and customs that regulate tribal members' physical and psychological behaviours, and ethnicity.

Initially there was a debate between two psychologists in the group on how tribalism develops and maintains physical and psychological effects in humans (as well as in very many animal species from bees to birds to lions).

1. What the not too distant future has in store for tribalism

A long-standing view is that tribalism is the result of neurological patterns largely arising from environmental experiences and possibly genes. Those tribal behaviours are still with us today. In the last 10 years or so, research into the human and other species' genomes by world-leading universities has discovered a potentially significant additional factor known as 'epigenetics'. Epigenetics describes a process by which specific genes can be turned off or turned on to reflect prevailing survival needs in a particular environment. Much research has shown these 'epigenetic' effects correlate with physical and increasingly, psychological behaviours and behavioural changes. Robust causative studies are very limited at this time however.

[World leading universities are conducting considerable research into gene and epigene editing. As an example, one recent study into resiliency from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) published this month, (by Mount Sinai University in New York <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-813983-7.00015-X>) suggests that "... epigenetic mechanisms demonstrated to play important roles. As pro-resilient molecular alterations counteract the deleterious effects of stress, a better understanding of these processes can potentially pave the way for novel clinical interventions for psychiatric disorders."].

Today, one's genome (genes and epigenes) can be edited through a tool called CRISPR. Such editing [which because of the potentially multi-million permutations involved, is increasingly employing artificial intelligence (AI) to improve accuracy], is being developed for the treatment or prevention of physical diseases such as cancer and for addressing psychological characteristics. It is a major ethical challenge. From an article by Anjana Ahuja PhD, in the Financial Times 27 December 2019 : "President Vladimir Putin has spoken of how the technique may one day create super-soldiers, incapable of pain, fear or regret." Unregulated gene-editing could overturn the world order with 'tribes' being genetically engineered to dominate - whether they be Russian, Chinese, European, etc.

2. The immediate future

The disempowerment of the significant populations at the bottom of the social scale seems to be a major trigger for many political movements in Europe and the US. The UK and US are

amongst the countries with the highest levels of inequality in the world.

Eastern European countries such as Poland and Hungary, together with the population of what was once East Germany, are moving to the right, arguably because the poorer and disempowered populations want to achieve some control of their destiny, and also a sense of belonging. In western Europe, a similar process is happening where the poorest in society are wanting to take control away from the 'Elites'. Brexit achieves a sense of identity for the major poorer segments of the population particularly in England.

Models not too different to the causes of the French Revolution and what Napoleon was seen to be bringing to the relatively impoverished masses.

A new edition of 'The New Class War' by Michael Lind (see Wikipedia for biography), has been highly reviewed (Guardian, FT, goodreads). It will be published on 20 February and gives rationales for what appears to be occurring in Western Countries. The 'goodreads' review: *"In both Europe and North America, populist movements have shattered existing party systems and thrown governments into turmoil. The embattled establishment claims that these populist insurgencies seek to overthrow liberal democracy. The truth is no less alarming but is more complex. Western democracies are being torn apart by a new class war."*

In this controversial and groundbreaking new analysis, Michael Lind, one of America's leading thinkers debunks the idea that the insurgencies are primarily the result of bigotry, traces how the breakdown of mid-century class compromises between business and labor led to the conflict, and reveals the battle lines.

On one side is the managerial overclass - the university - credentialed elite that clusters in high-income hubs and dominates government, the economy and the culture. On the other side is the working class of the low-density heartlands - mostly, but not exclusively native and white.

The two classes clash over immigration, trade, the environment, and social values, and the managerial class has had the upper hand. As a result of the half-century decline of the institutions that once empowered the working class, power has shifted to the institutions the overclass controls: corporations, executive and judicial branches, universities, and the media.

THE CLASS WAR CAN RESOLVE IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:

- The triumph of the overclass, resulting in a high-tech caste system
- The empowerment of populist, resulting in no constructive reforms
- A class compromise that provides the working class with real power

Lind argues that Western democracies must incorporate working-class majorities of all races, ethnicities, and creeds into decision making in politics, the economy, and culture. Only this class compromise can avert a never-ending cycle of clashes between oligarchs and populists and save democracy. ©2020 Michael Lind

The above two sections describe very different potential processes for the evolution of Europe – in the short to medium term, in the long term, and at micro and macro levels.

Report: Common Ground

Divisions bring destruction

Need to find common ground between various factions (Remainers/Leavers; Cons/Lab etc) and build on it.

Expand on the smallest common ground to slowly build consensus; most people want a “better place/live”

UKGov fundamental mistake in June 2016 was to ignore half of the vote and try to beat “remainers” into submission; similarly, Remainers made the same mistake and did not reach across enough. Dropping the remain label/paraphernalia is important; so is collaboration with other “main stream” civil society (to widen the agenda to social justice, democracy etc).

The remain campaign was too tribal; that was exploited by Brexiters. Remain sowed the seeds of its own defeat.

Common ground is not to be confused with coalition & compromise – which are seen as negative, but to be associated with consensus and progress.



Report: How to stay sane and keep fighting

Our current feelings

- Anger, bereavement, fear (rise of populism / xenophobia etc.)
- Hope – Johnson is a liar and may not deliver / new Labour and LibDem leaders may be remain / re-join
- Powerlessness – the press, the media, Westminster, all hold the power and our voice has not been and is not heard

How to stay sane

- Work closely together with EU / Remain peers
- Need for the remain / re-join campaign to resolve the fragmentation
- Remember it is not an end it is a beginning
- This is a battle lost, in a war which has lasted 40 years

An MEP Perspective from Julie Ward

- Many huge, big, brilliant things Europe has done for us all which affect everyday life, and people are unaware
- Incredible resources of knowledge in our MEPs and EC workers for us to capture
- Julie was interviewed by the BBC but it was never used as she was not on their message
- She is still speaking to schools etc post-brexite

Action to take

- Hold them to account – Facebook page
- Pool knowledge and resources
- Complaints to the BBC re representation – consider mounting a legal challenge re the recent BBCQT: the EU Commission has complained in writing many times but to no avail.
- Stay active at grass roots levels locally and regionally
- Work Pan-European level e.g. Sardines
- Work to increase our power – join e.g. Open Britain, Electoral Reform Society etc. and fight for PR
- A need for funding to raise awareness etc.
- Make use of the Law
- We are fighting apathy – engage support on broad issues – for example Lexiters and Remainers can fight together against BBC misrepresentation of Merseyside on BBCQT
- We have a duty to monitor what's going on in the negotiations and keep the challenge alive
- Need for clear messages – soundbites to challenge GBD
- Need to keep with like-minded people
- Choose your interactions wisely – you don't have to engage in every fight especially with friends – you challenge or not at your own choice
- Plan to do 'things' on specific days: Europe Day, Languages Day etc.
- Write to councils and engage with regards to protection of the EU27 citizens etc.
- Mount legal challenges

What we DO have

- Time
- Resources
- Authority
- Connections
- Knowledge
- Experience
- Common values with the EU
- Common problems with the EU

We can UNITE and find the moments to keep the EU dream alive

#Don't get Mad – get Active



Report: Self Care

Following the Stay Sane and Keep Fighting discussion, a smaller group discussed Self-Care in the campaign to remain / re-join.

Self-care is key to keeping going; we need to be kind to ourselves.

- Take breaks
- Take time away from the debate and activity
- Have time with like-minded people
- Follow the discussions but don't feel you have to be the only one
- Have time doing what you love and looking after yourself
- Find small moments that make you feel better
- Think of your own mental health and well-being
- Let your peers take the strain
- Tag team each other for support



Report: How do we engage young people?

My own daughter is very politically engaged; she has been brought up to be so. She was taken to the polling booth from a very early age and could not wait to be able to vote. A few of her peers feel the same. Her first vote was the referendum. She has been in the Slough of Despond ever since... But has never missed a voting opportunity and engages online, as well as recently joining a political party and several movements, such as the Campaign for Electoral Reform.

The majority of her friends are not engaged, each with their own reasons: their parents are not so nor are they; they see they can't make a difference; they feel powerless and without a voice. She tries to engage them but they see a hopeless task.

So the apathy of the young has been matched by the apathy of their elders, who failed to hold the debate about engaging them today.

Is Apathy actually our biggest enemy?



Report: A Butterfly Moment

A discussion as to why Liverpool and Merseyside voted Remain and did not vote Tory...

Liverpool and Merseyside are well aware of Johnson's view of the area re: Hillsborough etc. and the Tory desire for Managed Decline over the decades (See the letter circulated by Tories www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-16355281).

I made the point that this has made us very well aware of the amount and level of European Funding and investment over the years, and the benefit of this to the region, and we value the support we have had. Our buildings display the EU flag with pride and we know its worth. We are proud Liverpool is a European Capital of Culture and we are proud citizens of Europe.

And the other key issue: we do not buy, read, or allow the S*n. We do not follow the lies told about Europe because we are not misled by that piece of media.



Report: Side Conversation

Discussion on how we got here and how the establishment, House of Commons is antiquated and decades in the past.

More like a boxing match, or two sides facing each other in a battle of wits, not a forum for discussion listening.

What we should be discussing is changing the rules to influence the outcome of the game.

Parliament Must be re-modelled and brought into the future.



Report: How do we escape this madness and move back into the EU?

- Move to northern Ireland and campaign for a united Ireland and then I will be back in the EU.
- Move to Scotland and campaign for a independent Scotland in Europe.
- There is no escape route in the short term. The only option is to work to re-join in the long term.
- As individuals we have options to move but as a nation we do not.
- Work towards the next general election and influence the next government to be Pro-EU.
- At least two people in the group out of six thought the decision was madness..... ?



Report: Voting Reform

Initial discussion: Current government highly unlikely to allow any such changes as the current system plus the Boundary Changes coming down the line will act to keep the Tories in power.

Discussion was had with reps from Weaver Vale where Labour held by a margin, and Southport, where the Tories took over, on how opposition to the Tories had had mixed results. Reps were campaigning to keep out the Tories but this was not always effective.

Discussion moved on to the Electoral Reform Society/Campaign for Electoral Reform. Someone joined the group and said Labour Party needs to adopt Electoral Reform as a priority and this was noted.

The key elements of electoral reform were described as:

- Voting age
- Franchise (including EU citizens living here)
- Citizens Assemblies

Someone very helpfully described the difference between Alternative Vote and Proportional Representation and reminded us we have voted for our MEPs via one of these methods.

Although we voted in 2011 or 2012 and chose to stay with First Past the Post, it is now recognised that we would not be facing current difficulties had we gone for one of the alternative methods.

Someone asserted that promoting citizenship amongst young people (should be inside current educational system but may have to be extra-curricular) is a first step in making change.

Useful links going forward:

- Campaign for Electoral Reform
- Open Britain
- Liverpool University (query which Uni) which has done substantive research on effects promoting citizenship can have on the population as a whole.

Report: What can we influence? How do we exert influence?

1. Involving people on local issues that are being influenced by Brexit. Keeping the campaign going.
2. Get behind remaining leaders
3. Be positive, give messages, point out lies
4. Engage with different groups, get out of your bubbles.
5. Help cross party cooperations
6. Read Daily Mail, keep informed
7. Hold Government to account, point out lies
8. SEPARATE GROUPS NEED TO UNITE BEHIND ONE(NEW) GROUP AND HAVE ONE MESSAGE. COMMON AGREED ISSUES AND POINTS
9. Needs to be a over arching set of principles
10. Individual groups need to come together and agree a united strategy “United for Europe”
11. Need a national figure, need a leader and strategist
12. Tech groups are waiting for us to tell them what to do next
13. According to Daniel Radcliffe the E.P office in London is staying on and working with the new EU embassy. They said to send them your views.



Report: How do we support cultural education?

The session was well supported by colleagues eager to share experiences of cultural diversity and community cohesiveness. In Liverpool the City of Culture status was well received and gave the residents a flavour and solid link with Europe that has grown and grown.

The city now has over 40 international schools. These Supplementary Schools (Liverpool Polish - 400pupils on a Saturday, Romanian school, French, Spanish, Italian and more, teach language heritage and culture and provides another day at school for some of the pupils of Liverpool. This supports the mainstream Liverpool education system, providing strong attitudes to learning and good results in their targets for GCSE/A Level, as an example. The Liverpool University schools, Hope, LJMU, Edge Hill all have their fair share of international lecturers giving a rich diverse experience to the curriculum.

Questions raised:

Mainstream schools still involve themselves in Erasmus Projects, British Council projects, pupil exchanges etc.....Will this still continue? Will the colleges/universities still have their pick of top academics?

Will the parents and families of these supplementary schools still have easy transport/communication access to their homeland?

Liverpool is unique in its community cohesive world. Is the rest of the country as cohesive? Liverpool can share its success and ideas of cohesive business/educational enterprise, and the Supplementary Schools success in learning can be used as a model of International blending.

The Supplementary schools provide a city wide springboard to festival events, cultural dance, music scenes and engage with the wider community. Will this continue? Will funding be provided for these activities vital in selling the cohesive message?

Report: Europe and BAME

Why are we so white?

Does it reflect our city?

Where are the students?

How was it advertised?

Groups are older, middle class

City is not as diverse as it thinks it is

Facebook / EU groups (Funding)

White ghettos

Attempts to engage students

Low turnout in elections

Find innovative ways to engage eg initiatives to boost computer literacy via knitting

Negative framing

Self referencing

Disenfranchised

BAME cultural roots beyond Europe

Event location closer to families

Middle class concerns

Lack of focus/definition

Europe as “white Christian project”?

Lack of engagement of BAME in politics generally

Lack of global vision in remain movement

Lack of cohesion

How does Europe relate to daily racism ?

Does the UK want BME communities in UK, so why engage?

Report: How can I get my MP to respond when I challenge him?

'The Southport Problem'

Go Public – Echo, Guardian, New European – but not local press.

Investigate Parliamentary Standards re Open Door policies

Confirmed others in the town have experienced the same lack of response

Contact MP's Chair of Conservative Chair Constituency group:

office@southportconservatives.org

01704 807727



Report: Where is the BME community?

Session represented by white middle class people. Sense of the group was that the groups involved are white middle class individuals which reflects those interested in political campaigning and politics in general.

A contributor to the group – a Liverpool born lady of Ghanaian origin - reflected that the whole Brexit issue, which was sold as an anti-immigrant/immigration issue was so overwhelmingly negative – why get involved in the debate? If this is what you want – it is a non-compelling space to discuss or even debate in and therefore why go there.

Also noted, that although there are groups from Somalia, Iran et al – those groups did not originate from Liverpool and therefore are not connected/interested or engaged with local issues particularly, keep themselves to themselves and have more direct issues to resolve.

Demonstrations are not as active as they once were and the Council is not held to account by those BME groups who represented the city. It is arguable that this issue is a white middle class issue and is reflected in the groups arrived today.

Report: How can we defend modern languages teaching and learning in the UK?

The thoughts of the group can be summarised as follows:

‘Ignorance is the cause of many issues in society’, this can be applied to the mentality of learning languages.

The British curriculum desperately needs an overhaul as to how they address language teaching here in the UK. We can no longer live in a society assuming that ‘everyone speaks English, so what’s the point?’. This view is out dated and in order for businesses and trade to thrive after Brexit, languages must not be ignored. Although it is recognised that this is not the case for every school in the UK, this underlying, latent sense of apathy and reluctance to learn a language must be challenged amongst young people in mainstream schools and we should continue to present and reinforce the benefits of learning one or two languages.

Children at school should continue with their citizenship and PSHCE lessons and these should be introduced in primary schools at a young age.

MPs must be involved in campaigning to reverse the policy of making languages not compulsory beyond the age of 14. MPs should also be competent in at least one foreign language.

There should also be an increase in funding to language learning provision in light of the different future shaped by Brexit. Languages should no longer been seen as an after-thought in schools.

The decline in pupils taking a language must be addressed at local and national level and the group was also keen for further incorporation of bilingual education nationwide.