

MINUTES
OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING (the “INAUGURAL MEETING”)
OF THE CROSS-PARTY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION GROUP
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
HELD AT TY HYWEL
ON TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2018 AT 12 NOON

Present:	
David Rowlands AM (“DR”)	UKIP
Mark Reckless AM (“MR”)	Conservative
Mohammad Asghar AM (“MA”)	Conservative
Catriona Reckless (“CR”)	

1. The agenda at Annex A was presented to the Inaugural Meeting of the Cross-Party Technology and Innovation Group (“CPTIG”).
2. The Assembly Members present confirmed they wished to be members of the CPTIG.
3. David Rowlands AM informed the Inaugural Meeting that in addition to the Assembly Members present, the following additional Assembly Members had indicated to him that they also wished to be members of the CPTIG:

Lee Waters AM	Labour
Hefin David AM	Labour

4. The Assembly Members present agreed the purpose of the CPTIG was to promote technology and innovation to drive the Welsh economy and create skilled jobs in Wales.
5. DR explained why he considered there was a need for a CPTIG. DR noted a good strong economy underpins everything, and that Wales needs to move beyond certain old industries and focus on new industries driven by technology and innovation. The CPTIG could also play a role in well-educated scrutiny of the Welsh government in this area.
6. MA noted that with continual technical development and invention the economy would follow. MA gave the example of Mr. Honda, a bicycle mechanic, borrowing money after the Second World War to start a business putting motors on bicycles. MA gave a further example from Finland where they identified a need to move beyond the forestry and timber industry, and scientists and inventors came together to work on mobile phones, with the result that Nokia was established.

7. It was agreed areas for the CPTIG to look at might include STEM, technology colleges, and research and development.
8. CR noted the UK government spends around £6 billion each year on R+D, and DR noted it was important to ensure Wales received its fair share of that funding.
9. MA informed the Inaugural Meeting about his visit to the semi-conductor plant based in Newport, which is an example of leading technology (the plant produces a part which is in every mobile phone), large investment including in the region of £200 million government funding, and the creation of skilled jobs. MA confirmed he would seek to arrange a visit for the CPTIG to the plant.
10. DR informed the Inaugural Meeting about his constituent who had innovated with a new plastic-coated paper which could have numerous transformative applications, but yet was struggling to find financial investment. The Development Bank of Wales would require him to raise 50% of investment money from another source. Other potential financing sources were not interested because there was not an up and running business employing staff etc.
11. DR informed the Inaugural Meeting that he had carried out some research and identified 34 companies in Wales at the cutting edge of technical development such as, for example, working for Apple, and robotic packaging and delivery.
12. MA noted investment funding needed to be available to deliver the technology and innovation that our “dreamers” produce. MA highlighted the need to look for inventions, and to develop what Wales already has.
13. It was agreed that site visits for the CPTIG, in addition to the visit to the Newport semi-conductor plant, were a good idea, and that small companies were most in need of support.
14. MR informed the Inaugural Meeting about the data science campus being established by the ONS, with the aim of creating new business opportunities for business start-ups. MR confirmed he would seek to arrange a visit for the CPTIG.
15. David Rowlands AM was elected Chair of the CPTIG at the Inaugural Meeting.
16. It was agreed that Catriona Reckless would be Secretary of the CPTIG.
17. It was agreed the establishment of the CPTIG and appointment of its officers would be registered in accordance with the Assembly’s rules.

Annex A

AGENDA

**INAUGURAL MEETING
OF THE
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CROSS-PARTY GROUP
AT 12 NOON
ON TUESDAY 22ND MAY 2018 AT TY HYWEL**

1. Welcome
2. Group Purpose
3. Members
4. Officers
5. AOB