

How are the Brexit Party conducting themselves in Politics?

By Graham Eardley, Chairman of UKIP Walsall

The front page story in the Sunday Express[\[1\]](#), as a prelude to the rally held in Birmingham's NEC on Sunday afternoon, stated that Nigel Farage's Brexit Party (BXP) intends to fight the next general election by promising a windfall of £200 billion to the regions. The story also detailed how his party intends to be ready to fight any general election by the end of July 2019.

As a candidate in the European Parliamentary election, I had the pleasure of touring the West Midlands canvassing for votes. During that time it was interesting to note that when, for example in Worcestershire, I introduced myself as a candidate for the West Midlands European Parliamentary region I was greeted by a number of people who didn't see themselves as part of that constituency.

Instead, they saw Worcestershire as standing apart from the West Midlands at least in terms of their perception. When I explained that for the purposes of the European Union they were in the West Midlands (which also includes the counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands metropolitan area) some people – although by no means all of them – looked even more perplexed. I know that other candidates in different parts of England came across similar views, notwithstanding the devolved nations where I would contest that being a candidate for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland is an easier concept to grasp.

It will be interesting to note how this policy of devolving taxpayers' money to the regions, which seems to be a construct of the European Union itself, finds synergy with people with a County mind-set and with county councils themselves.

As someone who is born and bred in Walsall, which prior to 1974 was part of the county of Staffordshire, it is amazing the number of people I meet that yearn for the days when the Metropolitan Borough is once again recognised as being part of the county. So what of the other policies unveiled during the Brexit Party rally? The further policies

were revealed these policies are to that of my own party – UKIP (the UK Independence Party).

The Brexit Party are also promising to scrap HS2 – the proposed high-speed rail link between London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester. Also announced were further pledges to reduce spending on overseas aid from the current 0.7% of GDP and to withhold the £39 billion that the government has earmarked for a transition period should anything akin to the current withdrawal agreement be passed.

One area where there does appear to be a clear policy difference is over student funding. No mention was made as to how the Brexit Party would deal with terrorism and knife crime, an area which UKIP has clear policies on. Another fact that became apparent was how the Brexit Party is not going to hold a party conference but instead a series of meetings across the country. This is another instance where they seem to be at variance with the scheme filed with the Electoral Commission. As the paragraph below states:

5.2 The Party shall hold both a Business Meeting and a full Party Conference annually at such place and at such date and time as the Board may determine. Only Party members “in good standing” may vote at the Business Meeting and at the Annual Conference. Members must register in such a manner as the Board may decide and must produce a valid membership card and other such identification as the Board may decide in order to participate and vote in the Party Conference and Business Meeting ^[2]

The Brexit Party, in my opinion, should take some time to reflect as to how to conduct itself in domestic politics. However, with Nigel Farage at the helm and a desire to keep the hectic political momentum that it has amongst a large number of Brexiteers going, it might find itself repenting at leisure should the party hit on any turmoil in the future brought about by ill thought out decisions.

[\[1\] https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1147059/brexit-latest-news-nigel-farage-brexit-party-election-boris-johnson](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1147059/brexit-latest-news-nigel-farage-brexit-party-election-boris-johnson)

^[2] *Brexit Party Constitution lodged with the Electoral Commission 2019*