

Curriculum Vitae

Nicholas Bennett BSc. Econ, MBA

A leader who has operated successfully across the public, private and not for profit sectors in Wales, but with an international outlook enriched by working with EU institutions and Harvard leadership training.

My most recent success has been transforming CHC from a failing organisation into a profitable, successful, influential, high performing social business. I am seeking a new challenge.

CAREER

Group Chief Executive Community Housing Cymru (July 2006- Present)

- Developed a social enterprise into a group structure with three subsidiaries including Care and Repair Cymru and the Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales.
- Quadrupled turnover (£3.5m) and staffing (49) and awarded Gold Investors in People standard.
- Turned a business which had been making losses over 4 years into a surplus which has risen consecutively over the past seven years.
- Instigated an independent review of the regulation of the housing sector which gave significant freedoms and reforms to RSL boards as social enterprises serving tenants.
- Lobbied successfully for additional investment of approximately £300m over past 5 years against trend.
- Successfully led formation of the Welsh Housing Bond- 17 RSLs collaborating to borrow over £100m and build over 1000 homes.
- Launched and championed a range of anti-poverty initiatives including Moneyline Cymru which has provided affordable credit to 7000 borrowers, Your Benefits are Changing Campaign and "Don't get bitten by Loan Sharks" campaign.
- Nominated by staff for a "Leading Wales" award for inspirational leadership.
- Attended JFK School of Governance Innovations in Governance programme at Harvard.

Director

Bute Communications (May 2004- July 2006) and *darpar* economic development and policy consultancy (December 2002- July 2006)

- Co-founded and subsequently sold interest in Bute Communications, a company specialising in public affairs - Wales's fastest growing public affairs company in 2006, with clients across the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- As an independent economic development consultancy *darpar* successfully delivered economic development studies to a range of clients.

Cabinet Special Adviser Welsh Assembly Government (November 2000– October 2002)

- Special Adviser to the Deputy First Minister attending Civil Service Senior Management Executive Board and Cabinet.
- Briefed Ministers in preparation for Cabinet, Assembly Business and external meetings such as Council of Ministers, Joint Ministerial Council and Whitehall bi-laterals.
- Provided professional and political input into Ministerial portfolios including Economic Development, Wales Abroad, Rural Development, Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language.
- Negotiated weekly whipping advice and the budget planning round and Comprehensive Spending Review and Deputy First Ministers return to cabinet.

**Director of Development
Newidiem Economic Development Consultancy (January 1 2000 – November 2000)**

- Project director and manager, senior policy adviser on EU issues. Corporate responsibility for marketing the company, building and sustaining strong and successful client relationships, winning and delivering contracts from a diverse range of clients.
- Developed strong project management and team leadership skills.

**Regional Policy Adviser
Wales European Centre, Brussels (July 1995- December 1999)**

- Helped expand and strengthen WEC sponsorship. Advised a wide and diverse sponsorship on influencing the institutions of the EU and on EU institutional development and policy developments across the regional policy brief which included the structural funds, urban, transport and spatial planning policy.
- Influenced the development of the new Regional Policy Map in Wales, which provided the key to achieving Objective 1 status for West Wales and the Valleys and also succeeded in amending Structural Fund regulations in the European Parliament.
- Instigated WEC policy presentations papers and seminars around Wales in order to keep member organisations abreast of main policy developments and to bring greater “buy-in” from the sponsorship

**Economic Development Officer
North West Wales (September 1992 July 1995)**

- Co-ordinated and initiated economic development and planning department policies for rural communities in Gwynedd. Advised the Chief Executive on economic development issues. Established Anglesey Council’s first capital grant available to small firms.
- Led a bid for a five year grass roots rural development programme, attracting one million pounds worth of European Commission support. Wrote the first comprehensive economic development strategy, ensuring that it functioned as a key corporate planning document for both internal and external purposes.

**Parliamentary Research Assistant, Richard Livsey M.P. House of Commons
(November 1991- April 1992)**

- Speech writing and candidate briefing, drafted parliamentary questions and early day motions, pre-election planning and special assistance in target seats.

EDUCATION

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1987-1991

- Master of Business Administration 1991
- B.Sc.Econ (Hons) Political Science 1990

Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni Comprehensive School, 1980-1987

- 1985- 9 0 levels
- 1987- 3 A levels

OTHER INTERESTS

- A member of the OFCOM Advisory Committee for Wales from 2004- 2011.
- A member of the Welsh Language Board 2007-2012.
- A member of the All Wales Convention on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales in 2008/09.
- Appointed a member of Glas Cymru in 2008.
- Appointed to the Co-operative and Mutuals Commission and the “Williams” Public Services Commission in 2013.
- A regular contributor to both written and broadcast English and Welsh language media.
- Married, three children. Born 29/04/69. Fluent English and Welsh.
- Likes running, keeping fit, golf, walking the dog and indie rock.