GC Report October 2018

**Brexit Discussion:** Mark began by outlining some of the concerns around Theresa May’s Chequers Deal, specifically the NI border issue, not having a customs union and the separation of goods and services. He underlined his preference for a General Election if parliament cannot agree a deal, with other possibilities also on the table. He discussed the role of the EU Parliament and the difficulties of the proposed changes to migration policy.

Kevin looked ahead to the parliamentary vote, discussing the party’s six tests and potential outliers in the PLP.

Questions and contributions were taken around the hostile environment and migration policy, the role of individual MPs, the intricacies of Article 50, discussion around austerity and the need for more positive messages on immigration. In response, Mark highlighted the response of the business community to the Tories proposals on immigration and the need to tie immigration to employment and protect against worker exploitation.

**Kevin Brennan MP:** Kevin highlighted his work and meetings during UK conference, particularly stakeholder meetings that he had undertaken.

**Mark Drakeford AM:** Mark reported on a successful surgery at the Ely Paper Mill site; the difficulties around setting this year’s Assembly budget and some details around the leadership campaign.

**Cllr Ramesh Patel:** Ramesh highlighted the work of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, which had published a report around improving Cardiff’s air quality with some innovative and wide-ranging recommendations. He also highlighted the success of the Victoria Park Splash Pad and a petition to retain the trees around Suffolk House.

**UK Conference Delegate Report:** Peter Jenkins had enjoyed his experience as a delegate and would circulate his conference video and a written report. Peter highlighted the quality of speakers from CLPs, reported on the background to some of the more controversial details of the votes around rule changes and highlighted some of the fringe events that he had attended.

**Leadership Election- Supporting Nomination:** The GC overwhelmingly voted to support Mark Drakeford.

**Women’s Forum:** Alison reported on the outcome of their last meeting; they had not yet received a report from their conference delegate. Their conference motion on abortion rights had not gone through to main conference but the principle had been supported by the National Policy Forum report. They were working on a leaflet on austerity and would be attending an Assembly Cross Party Group on abortion rights, Women’s Committee, Women’s Conference and holding another forum meeting on 17th November.

**Canton Branch Motion:** Alison Scouller spoke to the Canton Branch motion in favour of adopting Proportional Representation for Westminster elections. This was overwhelmingly agreed.

**NEC Report:** Darren reported on NEC meetings at conference, highlighting some of the elements that had not been taken forward following the UK Democracy Review, including the future of LCFs and the NPF. He also highlighted some of the more positive elements agreed by conference, including the introduction of a seat for Disabled Members on the NEC and more democratic structures.