GC Report-October 2019

**Present:** 36 members

**Cllr Huw Thomas:** Huw gave an overview of some of the key policy developments, as follows:

* The budget gap of £25 million
* Investment in schools including the new Cardiff West High School and future plans for Fitzalan
* The building of council houses, with the Council on target for 1000 council houses to be built by 2022
* Advice on universal credit in libraries and the number of Looked After Children across the city
* Construction work underway on the bus station and the wider transport strategy for Cardiff (including train networks, rapid transit buses and the cycle network)
* Challenges in waste services
* Transparency and democracy in the planning process
* Work following the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency and the work from the LCF policy session, as well as the wider clean air strategy

Huw took questions on the following topics:

* Bringing services back in-house (with particular criticism of leisure services in the city)
* Funding for multi-ethnic education
* Homelessness
* Transparency and democracy in planning
* Progress following the LCF discussion on climate change
* Next Bikes
* Living Wage

**Brexit Update:** Mark reported that the Welsh Government continued to focus on ‘no-deal’ planning particularly in the area of farming and children’s homes. Kevin reported on the party’s wider ‘no-deal’ prevention strategy, the fact that the UK Government’s new Brexit deal proposals were unlikely to be accepted by the EU, the process following the Supreme Court’s decision on the unlawful prorogation of Parliament and the reduced likelihood of a General Election in the coming weeks.

Kevin also highlighted the positive progress of a bill on Domestic Abuse and stated that this will continue to make progress even once the new Parliament is in session.

**Mark Drakeford AM:** Mark reported on the comprehensive spending review, his trip to Japan and attendance at UK Labour Conference in Brighton, his speech at the re-dedication of the Aberfan memorial garden, developments around the free swimming policy, the Welsh Government’s consultation on sex and relationship education and progress on the Welsh Government’s legislation to remove the defence of reasonable chastisement, following the Scottish announcement earlier that week.

**Cllr Caro Wild:** Caro highlighted some of the topics coming to next week’s Cabinet, including fly-tipping, the music service, funding for the New Theatre, the International Sports Village, work on clean air and progress in school improvements.

**UK Conference Delegate Report:** Sophie outlined some of the key points in her written report, including key speeches and policy announcements from conference, compositing experience and the CLP’s participation in motions on a Green New Deal, the votes around Brexit and union democracy. Sophie was thanked for consulting with EC members before participating on votes on Brexit and for the wider report.

**Campaigns Report:** Selwyn reported on leafleting progress across the CLP, with canvassing to start and a trial of the party’s Doorstep App underway. He had prepared a leaflet following the key policy announcements at the UK part conference and the Campaign Committee had held its first meeting, with a second meeting to follow later in October.

**WEC and NEC Report:** A WEC meeting was to take place the next day, covering lots of elements including progress on MP re-selection processes. Darren outlined some of the recent NEC decisions particularly around rule changes presented at conference, as well as Brexit discussions.

**Women’s Forum Report:** The Women’s Forum leaflet is now ready and the Forum is planning some leafleting sessions. They are also planning to visit women members in the CLP. Their next meeting would take place on Saturday 2nd November in Ely. Claudia was planning to attend Welsh Labour Women’s Conference on Saturday 9th November if this event goes ahead.

**Ethnic Minorities Officer Report:** Ramesh reported on various events around Diwali and progress in securing standing orders for the Welsh Labour BAME Committee.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** These were agreed without amendment

**EC Report:** The forthcoming Desert Island Discs and Festive Bazaar events were highlighted.

**AOB:** Peter Bradbury thanked members for support following the death of his father.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.