Minutes of the Cardiff West Constituency Labour Party General Committee Meeting held on Friday 3rd January 2020

The Chair welcomed members and wished them a Happy New Year, thanking them for their hard work in the successful Cardiff West MP re-election campaign amidst a disappointing Wales and UK-wide result.

Kevin Brennan MP was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written report.

**Election Report:** Selwyn highlighted the key elements of the campaign, including a broadly successful ground effort (particularly given the time of year and weather), the use of the new app for canvassing, the importance of postal voting (80% of postal voters returned their ballots), Kevin’s successful win and sizable majority, gratitude to the efforts of telephone canvassers and the Women’s Forum alongside David who put up 230 boards across the constituency. The turnout overall was 2% down on 2017 but higher than in 2015. We won every ward bar Pentyrch and Creigiau and St Fagans and lost votes to Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats rather than to the Conservatives.

There was discussion around the accuracy of the data that was used for canvassing and how this could be improved. Members highlighted points including the difficultly in discussing devolved issues during a General Election and the potential for an education to discuss how to handle these on the doorstep; the behaviour of members across the party during the campaign, particularly on social media, the role of the media and the need for sober analysis of the result. The NEC were due to meet on 6th January to set out the timetable for the forthcoming leadership and deputy leadership elections.

**Mark Drakeford AM:** Mark commented on the success across Cardiff, particularly given the lacklustre results during the EU elections earlier in the year. He advocated caution ahead of 2021’s Assembly elections. He discussed the Assembly budget including prioritising efforts to tackle climate change and forthcoming legislation on private rental accommodation and giving the vote to 16 and 17 year olds. Mark agreed with members on the need for better communication of what Labour is doing in Wales, particularly in the face of a weak Welsh media.

**Cllr Susan Elsmore:** Susan reported on the key elements of the recent Cabinet meeting, including the Meals on Wheels programme, progress in building council houses and the indoor arena. She reported that Cllr Russell Goodway had received an OBE.

**WEC Nominations:** Darren Williams and Sophie Williams were nominated to stand for the Welsh Executive Committee.

**Women’s Officer Report:** Claudia and Alison reported on a successful leafleting campaign during the election outside schools, where they received a positive response from parents.

**Digital/IT Report:** Peter J had prepared a report on Facebook advertising during the General Election campaign with comparison across Cardiff. He would also look at Wales and UK-wide figures for comparison. There was a long discussion about the growing importance of social media in campaigning.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the October 2019 meeting were agreed without amendment.

**EC Report:** The Secretary reported on the vacancy for Political Education Officer and the CLP’s presence at the Rhodri Morgan Statue Fund dinner.

**AOB:** A future session on the new curriculum in the context of political education was discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.