

Annual Conference 2017 Brighton
24 - 27 September

ANNUAL LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2017
AYLESBURY CONSTITUENCY DELEGATE REPORT

DELEGATE REPORT

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AYLESBURY LABOUR PARTY

Introduction

The Annual Labour Party Conference of 2017 is sure to be one that goes down in history. In terms of attendees, this year's conference was the **largest yet** with a **record breaking 12,000+ supporters** making their way down to Brighton to witness the **excitement** and **democratic change** happening in the party over a snapshot of a few days. The sheer **size of the event** along with the **atmosphere** and **engagement** of all visitors is a further assertion of the **inspiring movement** that is happening within our Party and a great reflection of our **mounting membership** which now stands at **close to 600,000** – making our party the **largest political party in Europe**. Our **booming membership** and **colossal conference** stand as an **unmissable reminder** of the **undying importance** of the party's core – **the grassroots** from which we are built upon.

This year's conference also boasts an **incredible engagement of delegates** in our Policy Forum, Party Rules and Conference Arrangements that transcends those that preceded. **185 Contemporary Motions** were submitted, **13 Constitutional Amendments** proposed, **9 Composite Motions** suggested, **24 Emergency Motions** applied for, **over 10 points of order raised**, **more than 20 calls for Reference Back** and Tuesday's CAC report was almost declined. There was a **visible** and **remarkable** notion of delegates holding the NPF, CAC and NEC to **account** and a **remarkable level of scrutiny**, still accompanied by comradery and respect.

The conference presented a **fantastic level of debate** over a variety of issues, most notably including Brexit, and encompassed a **wide range of views** from both ends of the party. Such debate was again conducted with applaudable reverence and it was fascinating to see the array of people that feel **represented** and **welcomed** by our Party. Through looking at the results of each ballot and vote cast, it becomes evident that **despite deliberation within the party**, a **clear conclusion** exists, one that uncovers the **shift of the political centre** of gravity to the **Left** – as heard from Jeremy. The conference revealed that it is clearer than ever that **we stand united** behind our Leader and **determined** to bring **the Labour Party to victory** and generate the **success of Socialism in Britain**.

It was a **pleasure** to attend this conference on behalf of the **Aylesbury Labour Party** and an **honour** to be your **Constituency Delegate**. There couldn't have been a better conference to attend as a first timer and I am **incredibly grateful** to have had the experience. I have come away filled with even more **hope, love, admiration, motivation, respect** and **engagement** with the Party than ever before and hope that this **momentum** will **continue** within and **reverberate** out to those whose votes we so desperately need.

I hope that this report will summarise my experience and explain what I have learned, allowing you to understand the value of conference and hopefully assuring you that I served Aylesbury well as your delegate. Should you have any questions, please contact me at Emilyedenlouse1@gmail.com



Women's Conference

My debut to Conference was initiated by eagerly strolling down to the early **Young Women's Meet Up**. It was here that I glimpsed the **unity** and **love** that the **Women's Conference** would exude and I felt a **clear sense of belonging** for the **first time**. **Tracy Brabin**, MP for Batley and Spen since being elected following the murder of Jo Cox, greeted myself and a group of other young women. She delivered an inspiring speech, reminding each of us to **stand up** and **be heard** and **leave** the notion of quiet, polite young lady **behind**. Tracy instigated setting up a network of attendees and subsequently I made my first **connections** of Conference who I hope to stay in touch with and continue to learn from.



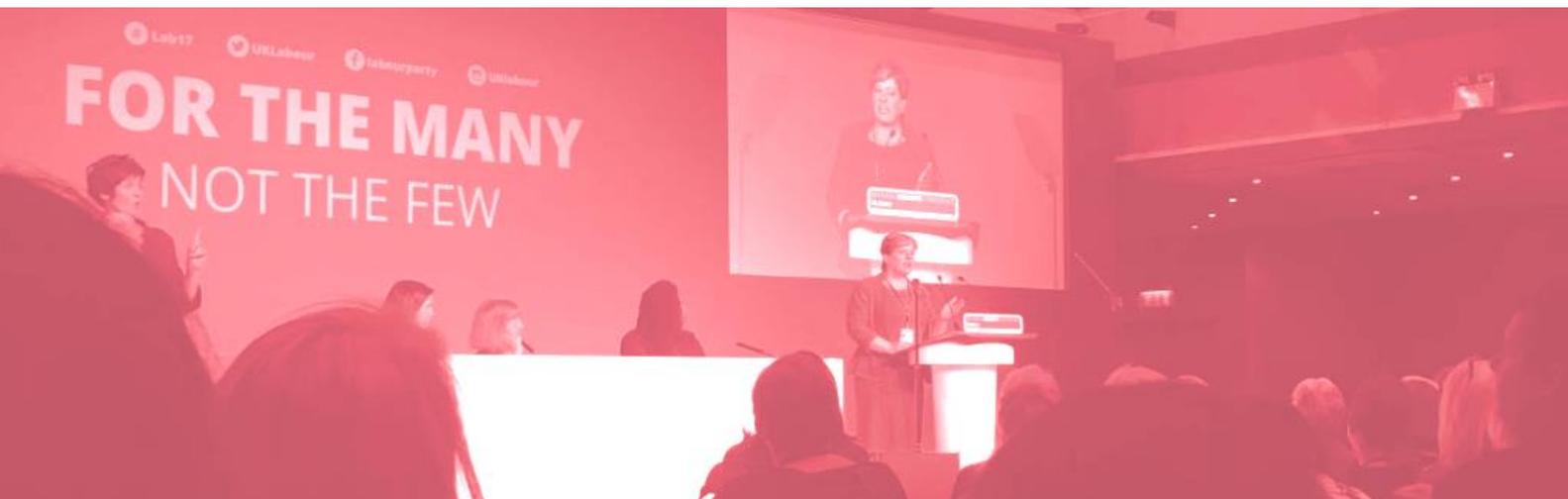
The **main body** of **Women's Conference** saw **phenomenal speeches** from **Dawn Butler**, **Emily Thornberry**, **Saima Ashraf**, **Rosie Duffield** and many inspirational delegates alongside. It was also the largest ever Women's Conference, with over **1,500 attendees**.

Dawn Butler, MP for Brent Central and Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities delivered a remarkable speech that uncovered a significant launch – the commitment of the Labour Party in power to **end period poverty** through providing sanitary products in schools, foodbanks and homeless shelters. This assurance sparked celebration in the hall – reminding attendees that it is the **Labour Party** that **stands up** to **protect working class women**. This is a truly outstanding pledge by our Party and will stop young women missing school because of their period and provide those struggling with the **basic dignity** and **hygiene** that we all **deserve**.

Dawn set the tone for a **supportive network** of **women**, reciting *"I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be,"* reminding us all that the **struggle for equality** is one in which we **must help** the **women around** us in **mutual progress** without competition.

Saima Ashraf, deputy leader of Barking & Dagenham Council presented a moving speech about her **personal refugee struggle** in which she moved herself and her three young daughters from France unable to speak English. Saima recalled her desperate situation and the help that she received from **Margaret Hodge** who inspired her to join the party – again reasserting the importance of **mutual support** within women. She proved to the hall that **no matter our background**, **women can** and **will be** the **leaders of tomorrow**.

Emily Thornberry incited **laughter** and **love** throughout the room and filled us with the **courage** and **hope** that is needed to fight back against the Tories and their callous cuts that are shown to disproportionately affect women.



Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury, presented the **Jo Cox Women in Leadership programme** to Women's Conference and talked of Jo's lasting legacy. This was a particularly interesting moment for me, as never before had I considered the possibility of embarking on training to be a female leader in politics – however my mind now stands changed. Rosie made note of women experiencing '**imposter syndrome**,' something which I often face but was urged alongside everyone else in the room to overcome. This is a key realisation that I take away from Conference as I am seeing now more than ever that **politics is no longer a man's game** and the **way for women is being paved**. My previous **fear** has been **transformed** to **excitement** and the necessity of working class women in politics is unfettered.

Jeremy Corbyn confirmed the commitment to the **End Period Poverty Campaign** and noted that **45%** of the **Parliamentary Labour Party** is female with a record breaking number of women in the **shadow cabinet**. Whilst this is the highest yet, Jeremy committed to making sure the **PLP** is **50% female**. It was also noted that **61%** of marginal constituencies have **women candidates**, which is **far more** than any other party – further asserting that the **Labour Party** is the **party for women**.



The day continued with interesting policy debate, surrounding the **NHS and Social Care, Housing, Economic and Business Policy, Foreign Policy and Brexit** and much more.

In talks of the NHS it was reaffirmed that **women** have **borne the brunt** of **Tory austerity**, with many of those supporting the beaten service being female. **Calls for additional public NHS funding; an end to NHS cuts and closures; for NHS asset sales to be re-invested; an end to privatisation** and calls for a **properly integrated universally available service** where given on basis that not only are such policies **vital** to the **health and wealth of society**, but also to the **survival of many women** who provide such services. With many **nurses** being **forced to use foodbanks**, it is stark that the **cuts** the Tories have imposed are putting many of our **NHS and Social Care staff** into **working poverty**. It was also noted by Mid Sussex CLP that many of those caring for their children, partners or elderly relatives are **women** and are **being forced to give up work** and are **left largely unsupported**. It stands as a key reminder that capitalism, especially under the Tories, **benefits unduly from the free labour of women and exploits our hard work**.

In terms of **Mental Health**, Charnwood CLP presented a statement that revealed mental health problems to be the **biggest single preventable killer of women** between 6 weeks and a year of giving birth – accounting for **almost a quarter of maternal deaths in this period** – 1 in 7 being by suicide. Such warning exposes how vital and urgent it is that our Party reinvests in Mental Health services and how **desperate many women are for our governing**.

Islington North CLP delivered a warning of how the **Tories' housing crisis** also has **particularly serious effects** for **women**. They detailed how **women** suffer most as result of their **domestic / caring responsibilities** and their **vulnerability** to **escalating housing** costs due to their **poverty and low pay**. An important addition is that **housing is even more** of an issue **for women** when it comes to escaping **domestic violence**. The **closure** of many Women's **refuge centres** means that many are put at **risk and unable to escape** for fear of **homelessness**.

In discussion about **transport**, Brighton Pavilion CLP raised concern about the **safety of women** on **driver-only operated** trains. The conference was in broad agreement that the **Govia Thameslink Rail** should be **stripped** of the **Southern Rail Franchise** and reaffirmed **support** for Labour's commitment to **nationalising the railway**. **ASLEF** made an important point about the **disappointing** truth that some industries are **dominated by one gender** – particularly the **rail service** with less than **6%** of train drivers being female. Women's Conference called for Labour to **commit to robust diversity** in *all* sectors – including the rail.

UNISON stood up for **WASPI women** and **Debbie Abrahams** called on the Government to **lower the retirement age** for women born in the 1950s from **66 to 64**. **USDAW** demanded the Labour Party **legislate against exploitative employment practices**, stating that too many women in work are in **poverty** – with **more than a million women** now employed in **insecure, casual and exploitative** work.

In relation to **Foreign Policy**, Brighton Pavilion CLP invited Women's Conference to **condemn the Turkish Government's** suppression of **democratic opposition** and called for the Labour Party to **support any appropriate movement** against the crackdown in Turkey.

Preseli Pembrokeshire CLP highlighted how the insecurity of **Brexit** is **especially** threatening to women as our protected **equality rights** are now uncertain and Women's Conference agreed that the government **must legislate to strictly ensure the equality of women**.

The policy debate that unfolded covered an **array of topics and policies**. The issues raised made it **unquestionable** that Women in the Labour Party **demand** social progress for **all** and wholeheartedly **back** the **progressive policies** of the **Labour Party Manifesto** – *however*, Women's Conference **unanimously insisted** that this goes further to ensure **substantive equality of outcome and opportunity** rather than **formal equality of procedure**. The Women's Conference tone set that **The Labour Party** are the only party committed to **addressing the disadvantage** women face.

Following policy debate, we were invited to attend further discussion in **breakout sessions**. Sessions covered 'Race, Faith and Women,' 'LGBT Awareness Training,' 'Ending Violence Against Women,' and 'What is the future for Working Women?'

I attended the '**Ending Violence Against Women**' which featured **heartfelt** and **impassioned speeches** from women **personally affected** by **extreme domestic violence**. The discussion was **incredibly moving** and acted as a **stark reminder** that **many women** around us are facing **severe abuse** that often goes unnoticed. It highlighted how **much more** needs to be done and how **society** has a **duty** to **seek** and **help** victims. One noticeable point made was that there are calls for **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors** to be employed in **each and every** A&E department to ensure that **vulnerable victims** can be **noticed** and **treated** with the **urgency** and **protection** that is required – as it is an unfortunate truth that many attend hospital and go **unnoticed**. I have since tried to research into whether Stoke Mandeville has such provisions but have not come across anything to confirm this. ***I therefore suggest that this is something Aylesbury Labour Party campaigns for.***

After such an **incredible** and **awe inspiring** first day at Women's' Conference, I headed to our **South-East Regional Reception** where speakers included **John McDonnell, Angela Rayner, Emily Thornberry, Tom Watson, Annalise Dodds, Stephen Morgan, Rosie Duffield, and Lloyd Russell-Moyle**. It was a great chance to talk to other Labour Women in the region and I joined forums that I hope to engage in as conference ends. Rosie Duffield delivered another exceptional speech and reminded us that **no constituency is unattainable!** If Canterbury can do it – So can Aylesbury!



In summary, Women's Conference was an **inspirational, motivational, stimulating** and **enthusing** day that instilled in me an even stronger sense of pride for being a Young Working-Class Woman in the Labour Party. The day provided such strength in community and I hope that our CLP will commit to **equal representation** on the Executive Committee and continue to **encourage** female members to **stand for positions** and for **council**. *I believe it would be very beneficial to send a Women's Delegate to conference next year.*

Ballots that took place at Women's Conference are as follows:

Women's CAC – CLP Selection

I voted: *JEAN CROCKER* and *TERESA CLARK*

Conference Elected: *JEAN CROCKER* and *TERESA CLARK*

(both by over 80,000 votes)

Women's CAC – Affiliate Selection

Unable to vote as not affiliate

Conference Elected: *ANNE DEAN* and *LINDA HOBSON*

Policy Debates:

Following a rule change at Annual Conference 2016, this year for the first time Women's Conference has a formal voice in Labour's policy making process. The top two topics as chosen by CLPs and the top two topics as chosen by Affiliates in the ballot held prior to Women's Conference went forward for debate.

These were:

CLPs:

NHS and Social Care Housing

Affiliates:

Economic and business policy Foreign policy and Brexit

CAC Report from Women's Conference Arrangement Committee:

A full report from Women's Conference will be tabled at the next meeting of the Joint Policy Committee (JPC). All supporting statements received will be referred to the National Policy Forum policy commissions and considered as part of their work on future policy documents. A written report outlining the debates held at Women's Conference will also be circulated. Given that this is the first Women's Conference under the new rules, the WCAC will review these processes as they continue to develop the policy making role of Women's Conference.

Sunday 24th

Sunday commenced with a **briefing** for South East delegates held by the regional party. This mainly included **formalities** and **instructions** on how to be a CLP delegate and how to conduct our votes. As a first-time delegate and a little unaware of what was to follow, this was particularly useful and put me at ease.

Following the briefing, the Main Conference began. Lloyd Russell-Moyle, newly elected MP for Brighton Kemptown welcomed us to the city.



Glenis Willmot, leader of the EPLP and chair of the conference began with thanks and memoirs. She congratulated the size and success of Women's Conference and welcomed us to the main event. Her report included details of the number of visitors and amount of motions submitted.

The CAC report was presented by Harry Donaldson and discussion followed.

One of the points raised was over confusion in the CAC report detailing that only the Chair can call a card vote. Harry Donaldson confirmed that delegates also have this power too.

Another delegate raised the issue of Sadiq Khan being the only mayor invited to speak to the floor, with many requests that other Metro Mayors such as Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham are provided with the same platform. It was agreed that this will happen in the future.

Many delegates raised issue of the disabled access to the venue, as the amount of people attending made it very difficult for wheelchair and mobility scooter users to navigate the centre. The CAC made assurances that this would be considered – however it remained an issue for the duration of the conference.

A final delegate raised a request for a reconsideration of the declined emergency motion on North Korea and stated how much of an emergency this is. Despite widespread support from other delegates, it was reconfirmed that the motion did not meet the specified criteria and would not be discussed.

The CAC report was accepted by a hand vote from delegates and affiliates – *I voted to accept the report.*

In keeping with the days tone '**Protecting Our Communities,**' a minute's silence for the **victims of terrorism** and **disaster** across the world was held, and **tribute paid to our emergency services** that responded to terror attacks across London and in Manchester and to the Grenfell disaster.

Below is a detailed timetable of the proceedings of Sunday:

Sunday 24 September – Morning Session Chair: Glenis Willmott and Andi Fox	
10:30	Opening of Conference
10:31	Welcome to Brighton and Hove <i>Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP</i>
10:35	Chair of Conference <i>Glenis Willmott</i>
10:40	Conference Arrangements Committee Report <i>Harry Donaldson, Chair of the CAC</i>
10:50	Merit Awards
10:55	Remembering the victims of terrorism and disasters <i>One Minute's Silence</i>
11:00	Obituaries
11:05	Co-operative Party Speaker <i>Cheryl Barrott</i>
11:10	Protecting Communities <i>Diane Abbott</i> <i>Debate – Speakers from the floor</i>
	<i>NPF Report Justice and Home Affairs pp 59-67, Housing Transport and Local Government pp 43-50, Environment, Energy and Culture pp25-32</i>
12:45	Conference Adjourns

Sunday 24 September – Afternoon Session Chair: Andi Fox and Glenis Willmott	
14:15	Conference Reconvenes
14:16	Protecting Communities <i>Local Government Speaker</i> <i>Debate continues – speakers from the floor</i> <i>Andrew Gwynne</i>
	<i>NPF Report Justice and Home Affairs pp 59-67, Housing Transport and Local Government pp 43-50, Environment, Energy and Culture pp25-32</i>
16:15	Welsh Report <i>Carwyn Jones</i>
16:30	General Election Report and Best Practise Awards <i>Iain McNicol, General Secretary</i> <i>Best Practise Awards</i> <i>Ian Lavery, Chair of the Labour Party</i>
17:15	Votes <i>Justice and Home Affairs Report</i> <i>Housing, Transport and Local Government Report</i> <i>Environment, Energy and Culture PC Report</i>
17:20	Contemporary Issues Priorities Ballot <i>Announcement of result of Contemporary Issues Priorities Ballot and compositing arrangements</i>
17:30	Conference Adjourns

The morning continued with Diane Abbot delivering an inspirational speech on domestic policy, delivered with real strength and humanity. The floor was disappointed to hear that Dianne receive **half of all abusive tweets** aimed at MPs during the general election campaign – but was astounded by her **resilience** and **passion**.

Dianne detailed the Labour Party’s policy on **public sector pay, police** and **fire fighter** numbers and a **resistance to service cuts**. Most notably, Dianne repeated Labour’s commitment to **ending the public sector pay cap** and delivered astounding promises that the party would **launch a full enquiring into Orgreave** and **end the indefinite detention of immigrants** and **never** use them as a **scapegoat**.

Speakers from the floor along with local government speakers delivered many a personal account of how **public service cuts** have severely **threatened** our communities and the dire need for Labour’s commitment to **anti-austerity** was made crystal clear.



Votes on the community reports were taken by a show of hands and all reports were accepted. *Although I voted for the acceptance of both the Justice and Home Affairs Report and the Housing, Transport and Local Government Report, I did vote against accepting the Environment, Energy and Culture Report as I was concerned about the lack of information surrounding anti-fracking policy.*

The results of the **Priorities Ballot** were also delivered, revealing which topics delegates from **affiliates** and **CLPs** deemed to be of most importance and worthy of debate later in the conference. *I voted for **the NHS, Social Care, Housing and Brexit.***

Affiliate delegates voted for: **Growth and Investment**

Public Sector Pay
Workers' Rights
Grenfell Tower

CLP delegates voted for: **the NHS**

Social Care
Housing
Rail

Details of the division of the vote below:

Issue	Affiliates Votes	CLP Votes
Access to Education	834	15,879
Learn Direct	418	2,385
Growth and Investment	1,964,438	6,807
Public Sector Pay	1,983,385	12,333
Workers Rights	1,965,824	13,486
NHS	157,782	187,723
Social Care	121,328	145,613
Grenfell Tower	2,009,374	34,564
Housing	159,273	187,716
Rail	2,485	120,496
Brexit	160,859	72,660
North Korea	15,000	1,234
Ban Conversion Therapy	15,000	4,080
Total Votes Cast	8,556,000	804,976



After conference adjourned, I first attended a welcome drinks reception that all attendees were invited too. This event was particularly busy and so I swiftly moved onto the **Young Labour** gathering. Here, **Jonathan Ashworth** MP for Leicester South welcomed us, followed by **Grace Chatto** of Clean Bandit, and finally **Jeremy Corbyn**.



Each speaker acknowledged the **strength** and **importance** of the Young Labour Movement and **Jeremy** paid particular thanks to us for being **so vital** in the General Election. The crowd was so **enthusied** and the **engagement** of young people in the Labour Party was blinding.

Here I spoke with many other Youth Officers and exchanged contact details in order to keep in touch and share future ideas. I also bumped into the Vice Chair of the Labour Society at my university King's College and spoke about future events planned at KCL.

Most importantly, the **atmosphere** built between a collection of young people **bound** by **hope** for a better future was captivating. There was a real zeal and desire for young people to talk about politics, and no longer can we say that the youth are apathetic. This highlights how it is so vital that young people continue to become **increasingly engaged** in party politics and *I hope that Aylesbury CLP will prioritise youth engagement ahead of the next election.*

Monday 25th

Monday 25 September - Morning Session	
Chair: Andy Kerr and Glenis Willmott (from 12:15)	
09:30	Conference Reconvenes
09:31	Conference Arrangements Committee <i>Harry Donaldson, Chair of the CAC</i>
09:35	Brexit and Internationalism International Policy Commission <i>NPF Report International pages 51- 58</i> <i>Glenis Willmott, Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party</i> Debate - Speakers from the floor <i>Emily Thornberry, Shadow First Secretary of State</i> <i>Keir Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union</i> Economy <i>NPF Report Economy, Business and Trade Pages 15 - 24</i> <u>Economy, Business and Trade</u> Composite Motion 1 – Growth and Investment Composite Motion 2 – Public Sector Pay Composite Motion 3 – Public Sector Pay Debate – speakers from the floor <i>John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor</i>
12:40	Votes International Policy Commission Report
12:45	Conference Adjourns

Monday 25 September - Afternoon Session	
Chair: Andi Fox	
14:15	Conference Reconvenes
14:16	Jobs, Living Standards and Equalities <u>Economy, Business and Trade (continued)</u> <i>NPF Report Economy, Business and Trade Pages 15 - 24</i> Composite 4: Workers' Rights Debate – speakers from the floor <u>Work, Pensions and Equality</u> <i>NPF Report Work Pensions and Equality Pages 69 - 77</i> <i>Debbie Abrahams, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions</i>
15:35	City Mayors Speaker <i>Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London</i>
15:45	Scottish report <i>Alex Rowley, Interim Leader of Scottish Labour Party</i>
15:55	Votes Economy, Business and Trade Policy Commission Report Work, Pensions and Equalities Policy Commission Report Contemporary Composite 1 – Growth and Prosperity Contemporary Composite 2 – Public Sector Pay Contemporary Composite 3 – Public Sector Pay Contemporary Composite 4 – Workers' Rights
16:00	Conference Adjourns

Monday commenced with the CAC report being accepted and followed by a Morning Plenary Session on **Brexit and International Relations**. There were many concerns, most notably by the media, that the conference had **ducked the issue** of **Brexit**, however Monday morning saw plentiful debate surrounding the area.

A delegate moved a reference back on the **Brexit section** of the **National Policy Forum** document and a lively debate ensued. Impassioned calls for us to **retain our single market membership** and others responded with **warning** of the danger of ignoring the democratic wish of the referendum. One delegate in particular seemed to captivate the debate well stating “we’re walking a tightrope on Brexit, but we must do what is best for Britain – for jobs, for prosperity, and to keep Britain going!”

This point was echoed by another rousing speech by Emily Thornberry in which she outlined the **three priorities** of the party towards Brexit – **jobs, jobs and jobs**.

Both **Emily** and **Kier Starmer** pledged in their speeches to put **Labour values** at the **heart** of **British foreign policy** and announced a new policy for licensing **arms sales abroad**.



Discussion surrounding the Economy followed on from Internationalism debate. Three composite motions were brought to the floor, the first delivered by Unite the Union and seconded by the CWU. Central to this composite motion were calls for **infrastructure investment**, **re-nationalising** the railway and Royal Mail, **ensuring secure work**, and the motion was summarised by “*a Labour government is needed to replace Tory austerity policies to deliver an economy that works ‘for the many, not just the few.’*”

The second motion, moved by Unison and seconded by Bolsover surrounded **public sector pay** and called for **meaningful pay negotiation** across the public sector with **pay rises fully funded** by the government to return to **at least pre-Tory austerity** levels of pay across **ALL public services** in order to **reverse** the impact of the pay cap.

The third motion followed a similar tone, moved by Community and seconded by Glasgow Provan. This composite motion extended from that of the 2nd, detailing that **disabled people** are suffering a pay gap of **13.6%**. The motion called for **support of disabled people into work** and for the **public sector pay rise** to be inclusive of those working in **supported workplaces**.

I felt each of the speeches delivered by movers and seconders to be incredibly convincing and had no difficulty pledging my support to them.

Len McClusky and **Dennis Skinner** delivered speeches surrounding the debate, with **Dennis** calling for the end of the public sector pay cap too. Len announced that he had “*never looked forward to a Labour government like I am looking forward to this one,*” a feeling that was desperately echoed by the hall.

I voted to support all 3 contemporary motions and all were passed by the conference floor.

John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor, followed with a speech that included pledges to **end PFI contracts**, **build a cross rail** for the **north**, **electrify** the **South West railway line**, **address the gender pay gap** and **deliver a cap on credit card interest payments**.

John made an interesting point that it has always been the **role** of the **Labour governments** to **lead** our country into each new area. The current new area we face is the ‘**Fourth Industrial Revolution**’. He committed to ensuring that **workers** were not left behind – but rather advanced in preparation for the **change to employment and production**.



After conference reconvened, a session of **Jobs, Living Standards and Equality** ensued.

Composite 4 on **Workers' Rights**, moved by USDAW and seconded by GMB called for an **improvement to enforcement of the National Minimum Wage, support for workers' struggle for rights to a safe, secure, intimidation-free workplace environment, policies that ensure a £10ph living wage and the scrapping of zero-hours contracts, a limit to the use of agency workers, an introduction of a statutory right to contracts that reflect the hours a person normally works, a support of trade unions taking action against insecure work, to repeal the TU act and anti-union laws introduced in the 1980s and 90s, to introduce a strong legal charter of workers' rights to unionise, win recognition and collective bargaining and to use devolution and local government to demonstrate commitment to improving job security.**

I supported this contemporary motion, as did the majority of the floor, and it was subsequently passed.

Debbie Abrahams, Shadow Secretary of state for Work and Pensions delivered the **Work, Pensions and Equality** section from the **NPF report** which was for the most part accepted. One delegate however, made calls for reference back on page 75 – as this section made **no mention on reversing cuts** to social security.

I supported this remit, as did the majority of conference and it was subsequently carried. I hope that the Policy Forum will now adequately explore the issue and report back.

The afternoon session also included a speech from London Mayor **Sadiq Khan**, referencing the hurt that London has experienced over the past 12 months and **Alex Rowley**, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party delivered the Scottish Report.

After conference adjourned, Phil, Mark and I attended the '**Stand up For Labour**' comedy night and laughs were shared.

Tuesday 26th

Tuesday 26 September – Morning Session	
Chair: Claudia Webbe	
09:30	Conference Reconvenes
09:31	NEC Ballot Chief Scrutineer reports results
09:35	Conference Arrangements Committee Harry Donaldson, Chair of the CAC
09:40	<p>NEC Report</p> <p><u>Financial Reports</u> <i>NEC Annual Report Pages 55-79</i> Diana Holland, National Treasurer</p> <p><u>NEC Constitutional Amendments</u> <i>CAC 3 Report, pages 21 - 23</i> Jim Kennedy, NEC</p> <p>Debate – speakers from the floor</p> <p><u>CLP Constitutional Amendments</u> <i>CAC 3 Report Pages 24 - 27</i></p> <p>Debate – speakers from the floor</p>
10:45	<p>Investing in our Future Rebecca Long-Bailey, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</p> <p>Emergency Motion - Bombardier</p> <p>Debate – speakers from the floor</p> <p><u>TUC Speaker</u> Mary Bousted, General Secretary of Association of Teachers and Lecturers</p> <p><u>Early Years, Education and Skills</u> Angela Raynor, Shadow Secretary of State for Education</p>
12:25	<p>Health and Care</p> <p>Composite 8 – NHS Composite 9 – Social Care Emergency Motion – Assaults on Emergency Service Workers</p>
12:40	<p>Votes</p> <p>Early Years, Education and Skills Policy Commission</p> <p>Emergency Motion – Bombardier</p> <p>NEC Constitutional Amendments</p> <p>CLP Constitutional Amendments</p>
12:45	Conference Adjourns

Tuesday 26 September – Afternoon Session	
Chair: Alice Perry and Glenis Willmott	
14:15	Conference Reconvenes
14:16	Guest Speaker Naomi Klein
14:30	<p>Health and Social Care Jonathan Ashworth, Secretary of State for Health</p> <p><u>Health and Care</u> <i>NPF Report Health and Care Pages 33 – 42</i></p> <p>Debate – Speakers from the floor</p> <p>Barbara Keeley, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care</p>
16:00	<p>Motions</p> <p>Composite 5 – Housing Composite 6 – Grenfell Tower Composite 7 – Rail</p> <p>Debate – Speakers from the floor</p>
17:10	Deputy Leader's Speech Tom Watson, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party
17:15	<p>Votes</p> <p>Health and Care Policy Commission Report Contemporary Composite 8 - NHS Contemporary Composite 9 – Social Care Contemporary Composite 5 - Housing Contemporary Composite 6 – Grenfell Tower Contemporary Composite 7 – Rail Emergency Motion – Assaults on Emergency Service Workers NEC Report</p>
17:25	Closing Formalities
17:30	Conference Adjourns

As you can see, Tuesday was a day packed full of **democracy, debate and deliberation**. The most important note of the day was the **embracement** of **members** to the **democratic procedures** of annual conference. So many attendees were keen to speak from the rostrum, to have their say and to put their ideas across. A carnival of **reference backs** ensued and the **deliberation** of **rules** was that of a festival.

The day kicked off with the results of the ballot (**Division II – Socialist Societies Selection**), which are detailed below. *I was not eligible to vote in this division.*

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent of</u>	
ALLAN, David	5,044	8.99	
ASSER, James	51,050	91.01	Elected
Total Votes Cast	56,094		

Tuesday was also the day for CLP delegates to cast their ballots for the **National Constitutional Committee** (Division III). *I voted for Anna Dyer and Emina Ibrahim who were both elected.* Full details below:

**Result of Ballot - National Constitutional Committee -
Division III**

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent of</u>
BAH, Sulayman Adama	4,049	0.99
BURLEY, Rose	64,079	15.60
DYER, Anna	145,578	35.44
HEPWORTH, Kevin	51,364	12.51
IBRAHIM, Emina	145,662	35.46
Total Votes Cast	410,732	
<u>Elected:</u>		
DYER, Anna	145,578	
IBRAHIM, Emina	145,662	

Tuesday was timetabled for the results of the Division I ballot by Trade Unions, however only one nomination was received – Joanne Cairns (USDAW) and so she was elected unopposed.

The business of the day continued with Harry Donaldson delivering the day's CAC report, which received an **astounding amount of scrutiny** from delegates. Many reference backs were made as were points of order.

North and Poole both requested a **reconsideration** of the **rejection** of their **declined emergency motion** – Harry Donaldson replied that both did not meet the criteria and would not be heard.

As one of the declined motions was in reference to **Trident**, many (*including myself*) were disappointed that there were to be no time scheduled to discussing **Trident** or **North Korea**.

Brighton Pavilion called for an enquiry over the **long-term suspension** of one of their members' which has been **failed** to be **addressed**. Harry invited the members to meet with the CAC to discuss this.

A point of order was raised over the **continual use of gender pronouns** in addressing delegates and a speaker requested chairs to address delegates as 'comrade' etc. rather than 'ladies.' From then on, there was more of an effort to do so.

For the first time, the **CAC report** was **not accepted** by a **quick hand vote**. The initial show of all hands was **inconclusive**, and so it was **called to show hands** in **sections** of **CLP** and **affiliate**. This again proved **inconclusive**, showing just how close the vote was. This resulted in a **card vote being called** by the chair, in which many suggested to be the **first card vote** called on a **CAC report** in **recent history** – demonstrating the **outstanding level of involvement** of delegates.

The CAC report was **eventually passed** with the following vote share:

Result of Card Vote 14 – CAC Report 3

ACTUAL VOTES CAST	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	134,353	224,941	359,294
%	37.39%	62.61%	
Affiliate	1,590,207	196,620	1,786,827
%	89.00%	11.00%	

OVERALL %AGE SPLIT	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	18.70%	31.30% =	50.00%
Affiliate	44.50%	5.50% =	50.00%
Total	63.19%	36.81% =	100.00%

The resolution is Carried

The result of CARD VOTE 14
Resolution = CAC Report
is as follows

FOR:	63.19%
AGAINST:	36.81%
	100.00%

I voted against accepting the CAC report as I did not feel it adequately addressed issues raised by submitted emergency motions. It became more apparent that there is not sufficient time scheduled for delegates to raise issues of concern and many delegates requested that more time would be given. Many of us hope that this will be addressed in time for next year.

The **Financial Reports** were delivered by **National Treasurer Diana Holland**.

Diana announced that the party was **debt free** – a move made not by money accumulated through **membership fees** or **donations** but instead by juggling the books. She asserted that **campaign donations** are **only spent** on campaigns and reassured that our money was being spent as we set out.

Holland talked of the **General Election Trust** set up with reserves for elections when called, as the recent snap election, and explained how **£3.5 million** was available when Theresa called the election that she promised would never happen. She reassured the floor that we are **financially prepared** for the next election – whenever it may be.

Diana paid thanks to our **online donors**, who generated a remarkable **£4 million** during the **general election campaign**. On just **one day** of the campaign, **£470,000** was raised online – a record breaking amount.

The report was positive and widely accepted by the hall, however some issues were raised by delegates.

One delegate requested details of compliance expenditure.

Another requested the free provision of a stall for the house CLP of conference to be reinstated.

Another questioned why only 5% of CLP membership fees are recycled into direct CLP investment.

Another requested that CLPs would be enabled to borrow from the central party.

Diana responded with details and apologised for the removal of the free stall provision, promising this would be reinstated next year. She also promised to refer queries of CLP membership fees on and reminded us that CLPs have the ability to request for funds from Constituency Development Funds.

The financial report was unanimously adopted by hand vote.

The main business of the morning was taken up with **NEC Constitutional Amendments**, The NEC had proposed their **own set of motions** and **launched a democratic review** of all party structures. This led to the **NEC requesting** that all **CLP's** that **submitted rule changes** to **remit** them to the **democratic review body**. The **NEC** made clear **recommendations** to delegates to vote **against** any amendment proposed that was **not remitted**.

All but 1 of the **amendments** proposed by CLP's were subsequently **remitted**. Details below of each proposed:

CLP	Chapter and clause	Amendment	NEC Attitude
Card Vote 4: Conditions of membership			
Hastings & Rye	CHAPTER 2 Clause I, Section 8 <i>Conditions of membership</i> Page 11	At the end of Section 8 add: "A member of the Party who in the opinion of the NEC engages in intentional anti-Jewish or racist abuse in public or in writing shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Party. Where there is a case to answer within objective criteria and the party's values, a clear dividing line shall be maintained between a) investigation to establish the full facts; and i. informed judgment on their political implications Hatred of Jews shall not be evidenced by non-abusive words or actions regarding Israel or Zionism that are part of legitimate political discourse. If the Party seeks Jewish or other community views or advice on definitions, these shall be sought from all sections of that community as deemed appropriate, and any alternative views that are offered from that community shall be heard."	REMITTED
Card Vote 5: Hatred and prejudicial language			
Jewish Labour Movement	CHAPTER 2 Clause I, Section 8 <i>Conditions of membership</i> Page 11	After the first sentence add a new sentence: A member of the Party who uses anti-semitic, Islamophobic, racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions in public, private, online or offline, as determined by the NEC, shall be deemed to have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Party. Add at the end of the final sentence after "opinions". except in instances involving antisemitism, Islamophobia or racism Insert new paragraph E: Where a member is responsible for a hate incident, being defined as something where the victim or anyone else think it was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity, or sexual orientation, the NEC may have the right to impose the appropriate disciplinary options from the following options: [same as D]	REMITTED
Card Vote 6: Allocation of membership fees			
York Outer	CHAPTER 2 Clause III, Section 6 <i>Membership subscriptions</i> Page 13	b) Replace existing Section 6 with: An NEC approved statement shall be produced setting out the basis on which membership fees shall be allocated, including from January 2017 a minimum cash allocation of 10% of each paid up member's subscription and a guaranteed minimum package of support for all CLPs.	REMITTED
Card Vote 7: Conference Delegates			
Cheltenham	CHAPTER 3 Clause I, Section 4F <i>Party Conference - delegations</i> Page 15	Add at new sentence at the end of Section 4F as follows: Any exceptions to this rule can only be made with the approval of the NEC or an officer exercising the powers given to them by the NEC.	REMITTED
Card Vote 8: Contemporary Motions			
Brighton Pavilion	CHAPTER 3 Clause III, Section 2C <i>Conference Motions</i> Page 16	Amend the first sentence as follows: delete "contemporary" and delete "which is not substantially addressed by reports of the NEC or NPF or Conference." and replace the latter with "on a matter of policy, campaigning or Party organisation and finance". Amend the second sentence: delete "determine whether the motions meet these criteria and" Amend the last sentence: delete "contemporary".	NOT REMITTED

Card Vote 9: Constitutional Amendments			
Filton & Bradley Stoke	CHAPTER 3 Clause III, Section 2H <i>Constitutional Amendments - debated in year of submission</i> Page 17	Add a new sub-clause 2I at end: All constitutional amendments submitted by affiliated organisations and CLPs that are accepted as in order shall be timetable for debate at the first party conference following their submission.	REMITTED
Card Vote 10: Nomination of Leader and Deputy Leader - 5%			
Crewe & Nantwich	CHAPTER 4 Clause II, Section 2b (i) <i>- Election of Leader - nominations required -</i> Page 18	Replace "15 per cent" with "5 per cent"	REMITTED
Card Vote 11: Young Labour			
Blackpool North & Cleveleys	CHAPTER 11 Clause V <i>Young Labour Rules</i> Page 47	Add at the end after Sub-clause 3, a new Sub-clause 4 as follows: Young Labour shall have its own constitution and standing orders, to be determined by the Young Labour AGM.	REMITTED
Card Vote 12: Local Government Committees			
Leyton & Wanstead	CHAPTER 12 Clause IV <i>Local Campaign Forums</i> Page 52	Delete all and insert new sub-clauses as follows: 1. The membership of the LGC shall consist 75% of delegates from the local CLP(s) and 25% from affiliates. At least 50% of delegates from each group shall be women. 2. Additionally, CLP campaign co-ordinators shall be ex officio members of the LGC. Any sitting MP, AM, MSP, MEP, PCC and/or PPC may attend their LGC. Where a Co-operative Party council exists for the area concerned and they sponsor candidates in local elections they shall be entitled to appoint a member to the LGC. 3. The LGC shall meet at least four times per year with representatives of the Labour group where one exists. Consequential amendments - elsewhere replace LCF by LGC	REMITTED
Card Vote 13: Accountability of Labour Groups			
Leicester South	CHAPTER 13 Clauses XIV and XVII <i>Reporting to and consulting with the Party</i> Page 60	Replace existing Clause XIV, Section 1 with the following: 1. Members of the Labour group are entitled and encouraged to attend meetings of their constituency party and appropriate local party units. The group standing orders shall specify how the group and council leadership including the City Mayor and Deputy City Mayor shall report to and consult with the appropriate local party on a regular basis; the leader and deputy leader of the Labour Group, or other Group officer as determined by the Group shall be members of the LCF and its Executive Committee. The party expects the group leadership including the City Mayor and Deputy City Mayor to give a minimum of reports and hold a number of policy consultations within the year, to keep the party informed of budgetary and service delivery issues, and other policy areas. Replace existing Clause XVII, Section 1 and 2 with the following: 1. Labour groups on joint boards, committees, on regional bodies and on local government associations shall adopt appropriate rules and standing orders in consultation with the party's Local Government Unit and with the prior approval of the NEC. 2. The rules contained in Chapter 13 are minimum requirements for the operation of Labour groups and the conduct of Labour councillors including the City Mayor and Deputy City Mayor. Due account must be taken of the resources for member development and the guidance approved by the NEC and of such advice as may be issued from time to time by the NEC.	REMITTED

9/10 CLP's agreed to remit, some reluctantly, in order to avoid their amendment being **voted down** and subsequently **ignored**. By remitting, **CLPs** were **assured** that their **amendments** would be **submitted** to **review** and **reported back** upon.

The one amendment not remitted – by Brighton Pavilion, was rejected. *I voted to support the amendment.*
Full details below:

Result of Card Vote 8 – Contemporary Motions

ACTUAL VOTES CAST FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL	
CLP	278,931	155,357	434,288
%	64.23%	35.77%	
Affiliate	54,350	1,773,357	1,827,707
%	2.97%	97.03%	

OVERALL %AGE SPLIT	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	32.11%	17.89% =	50.00%
Affiliate	1.49%	48.51% =	50.00%
Total	33.60%	66.40% =	100.00%

The resolution is **Not Carried**
26/09/2017 15:59:23

The result of **CARD VOTE 8**
Resolution = **Contemporary Motions**
is as follows

FOR: 33.60%
AGAINST: 66.40%
100.00%

The NEC proposed amendments were welcomed by the delegates and can full details and results be seen below: *I voted to support all 3 amendments.*

Chapter & Clause	Current wording	Amendment
Card Vote 1: Composition of the NEC		
NEC Chapter 1 Clause VIII, Section 1.A <i>Composition of the NEC</i> Page 5	1. The NEC shall comprise: A. 24 members elected in such proportion and under such conditions as may be set out in rules Chapter 3.III below and Chapter 4.III below.	Delete and replace with: 1. The NEC shall comprise: A. 28 members elected in such proportion and under such conditions as may be set out in rules Chapter 3.III below and Chapter 4.III below.
Chapter 4 Clause III, Section A.i.a <i>Procedural rules for elections for national committees</i> Page 20	a. Division I (trade unions) shall consist of 12 members, at least six of whom shall be women, to be nominated by trade unions and elected by their delegations at Party conference.	Delete and replace with: a. Division I (trade unions) shall consist of 13 members, at least six of whom shall be women, to be nominated by trade unions and elected by their delegations at Party conference
Chapter 4 Clause III, Section A.i.c <i>Procedural rules for elections for national committees</i> Page 20	c. Division III (CLPs) shall consist of six members, at least three of whom shall be women, to be nominated by their own CLP and at least two other CLPs. The ballot for these places shall be conducted among all eligible individual members of the Party by means of a national one-member-one-vote postal ballot conducted to guidelines laid down by the NEC.	Delete and replace with: c. Division III (CLPs) shall consist of nine members, at least four of whom shall be women, to be nominated by their own CLP and at least two other CLPs. The ballot for these places shall be conducted among all eligible individual members of the Party by means of a national one-member-one-vote postal ballot conducted to guidelines laid down by the NEC.
Chapter 4 Clause III, Section A.vii <i>Procedural rules for elections for national committees</i> Page 22	vii. The term of office in each of the five NEC divisions shall be two years starting immediately after the close of the Party conference to which the election result is reported.	Delete and replace with: vii. The term of office in each of the five NEC divisions shall be two years starting immediately after the close of Party conference to which the election result is reported except where the NEC issues procedural guidance otherwise on an emergency temporary basis. This rule amendment shall be valid only until the election of NEC positions in Division III in 2018, at which point it shall lapse.

Result of Card Vote 1 – Composition of the NEC

ACTUAL VOTES CAST	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	430,805	9,485	440,290
%	97.85%	2.15%	
Affiliate	1,846,431	1,000	1,847,431
%	99.95%	0.05%	

OVERALL %AGE SPLIT	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	48.92%	1.08% =	50.00%
Affiliate	49.97%	0.03% =	50.00%
Total	98.90%	1.10% =	100.00%

The resolution is **Carried**
26/09/2017 15:59:22

The result of **CARD VOTE 1**
Resolution = **Composition of the NEC**
is as follows

FOR: 98.90%
AGAINST: 1.10%
100.00%

Card Vote 2: Nomination of Leader and Deputy Leader - 10%			
NEC	Chapter 4 Clause II, Section 2.B.i <i>Procedural rules for elections for national officers of the Party</i> Page 18	B. Nomination i. In the case of a vacancy for leader or deputy leader, each nomination must be supported by 15 per cent of the combined Commons members of the PLP and members of the EPLP. Nominations not attaining this threshold shall be null and void.	Delete and replace with: B. Nomination i. In the case of a vacancy for leader or deputy leader, each nomination must be supported by 10 per cent of the combined Commons members of the PLP and members of the EPLP. Nominations not attaining this threshold shall be null and void.

Result of Card Vote 2 – Nomination of Leader and Deputy Leader - 10%

ACTUAL VOTES CAST	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	352,759	86,343	439,102
%	80.34%	19.66%	
Affiliate	1,832,971	35,229	1,868,200
%	98.11%	1.89%	
OVERALL %AGE SPLIT	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	40.17%	9.83% =	50.00%
Affiliate	49.06%	0.94% =	50.00%
Total	89.23%	10.77% =	100.00%
The resolution is		Carried	
26/09/2017 15:59:22			

The result of CARD VOTE 2
Resolution = Nomination of Leader and Deputy Leader - 10%
is as follows

FOR:	89.23%
AGAINST:	10.77%
	100.00%

Card Vote 3: Conduct prejudicial to the party			
NEC	Chapter 2 Clause 1, Section 8 <i>Conditions of membership</i> Page 11	8. No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.II.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions.	Delete all and replace with: 8. No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party. The NEC shall take account of any codes of conduct currently in force and shall regard any incident which in their view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation as conduct prejudicial to the Party: these shall include but not be limited to incidents involving racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia or otherwise racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions, sexual harassment, bullying or any form of intimidation towards another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as determined by the NEC, wherever it occurs, as conduct prejudicial to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.II.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions except in any instance inconsistent with the Party's aims and values, agreed codes of conduct, or involving prejudice towards any protected characteristic.

Result of Card Vote 3 – Conduct prejudicial to the party

ACTUAL VOTES CAST	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	405,552	30,657	436,209
%	92.97%	7.03%	
Affiliate	1,816,879	7,334	1,824,213
%	99.80%	0.40%	
OVERALL %AGE SPLIT	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL
CLP	46.49%	3.51% =	50.00%
Affiliate	49.80%	0.20% =	50.00%
Total	96.28%	3.72% =	100.00%
The resolution is		Carried	
26/09/2017 15:59:23			

The result of CARD VOTE 3
Resolution = Conduct prejudicial to the party
is as follows

FOR:	96.28%
AGAINST:	3.72%
	100.00%

The excitement of amendments was followed by a section on “**Investing in our Future**” with a speech delivered by Rebeca Long-Bailey, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This was followed by an emergency motion on Bombardier which can be seen below:

Bombardier

On Monday 18th September Theresa May met Canadian PM Justin Trudeau to discuss a complaint by the US aerospace company Boeing to the US Commerce Department regarding aerospace company Bombardier.

Boeing claims that Bombardier received government subsidies in Northern Ireland and Canada to develop and manufacture its C-series single aisle planes. Massive investment has been made in the Belfast plant by Bombardier. The C-series is in production with a considerable number of orders for the plane.

If successful the claims brought by Boeing to the US Department of Commerce of ‘unfair competition’ by Bombardier’s C series could result in punitive fines, threatening the very future of the Bombardier site in Belfast. Bombardier have benefited from state investment from Canada and from Invest NI, Northern Ireland’s economic development agency, all of which was lawful and legitimate.

At present a thousand workers (or about 25%) are employed on C Series production but in four years’ time that number is expected to rise to 60% of jobs on site. Bombardier is the largest private sector employer in Northern Ireland and these jobs are vital to the aerospace industry and manufacturing economy and sustain many more in the wider supply chain.

Conference calls upon the British and Canadian governments to meet with Boeing to resolve this crisis.

Conference believes the UK Government must stand up for the jobs being put at risk in Northern Ireland and to follow Labour’s lead in setting out an industrial strategy that develop our manufacturing base more widely and into the future, creating good jobs across all of regions, nations and communities.

Mover: Unite the Union

Brilliant contributions from delegates ensued and the **support** for the **motion** was **resounding**.



The focus of the day then turned to our **education system**, with Mary Boustead kicking things off. She delivered a speech detailing the **cuts** faced by **teachers** and **schools** and complained of the **elitism** of **tuition fees**.

Angela Rayner, Shadow Secretary of State for Education delivered an excellent speech in which she **praised** a Labour government innovation, **Sure Start centres**, which helped to change the direction of her and her son's life after she became a mother at age 16. Angela announced that the Labour Party will invest **£500 million a year** to **reverse** the **Tory cuts** in **full**. Angela also talked of the **importance** of **lifelong learning** and so committed the **National Education Service**, as outlined in the manifesto, to **providing free education for all at every state of our lives**. This speech was met with a **resounding applaud** and **standing ovation** and was a **welcomed response** to the **decimation** of our **education services**.

Following on, a section on **Health and Care** began – with **2 composite motions** and **1 emergency motion** moved.

The composite motion on the NHS, moved by the Socialist Health Association and seconded by Islington South and Finsbury CLP called for an end to the following FYFC failures:

- downskilling clinical staff;
- Tory cuts to the NHS including the Capped Expenditure Process;
- the sell-off of NHS sites;
- reclassifying NHS services as means-tested social care;
- cementing the private sector role as ACS partners and as combined health/social care service providers
- replacing 7500 GP surgeries with 1500 “superhubs”.

Details of the emergency motion submitted by GMB on assaults to emergency service workers can be seen below.

The composite motion on Social Care, moved by Poole CLP and seconded by Weaver CLP asked **conference** to

- **reaffirm** the **manifesto commitment** to **address** the **funding crisis** in **social care** to **ensure dignity** for **people in old age** and for some of the **most vulnerable people** in our **communities**;
- to **ensure** that a Labour Government **introduces measures** that **provide adequate funding** to **enable local authorities** to **achieve standards** of **care** that are **fit for purpose**
- to **develop** the **manifesto commitment** to **create** a **National Care Service** and an **integrated Health and Social Care** service for **the benefit of all**.

The details of the emergency motion on assaults on emergency service workers, moved by the GMB can be seen below:

Assaults on emergency service workers

Conference regrets that on 19th September 2017 a police officer was critically injured following an assault while on duty in West Yorkshire and that a paramedic was assaulted while treating a patient in the West Midlands.

Conference notes that assaults against the emergency services are at record levels with over 1,000 firefighters and 2,300 paramedics attacked while on duty last year, and that there were more than 2.4m assaults on police officers. Conference abhors the pernicious nature of the attacks, which include sexual assault, and applauds the dedication and professionalism of emergency service personnel who put themselves at risk while serving the public.

Conference regrets the impact the attacks have on the physical and mental health of staff and recognises that a January 2017 National Audit Office report found sickness levels amongst paramedics were raised because "ambulance work by its very nature carries an increased risk...of violence."

Conference condemns the fact that front-line workers are increasingly suffering from high levels of stress, anxiety, depression and related conditions, and also that new figures show that 80,000 working days were lost in ambulance services last year due to staff suffering from stress. Conference further notes that up to a quarter of ambulance staff in some Trusts had to take time off work due to stress last year. Conference acknowledges that prolonged austerity has increased both the volume and complexity of the demand on the emergency services placing them in increasingly vulnerable situations and that this in addition to the ongoing public sector pay-freeze is demoralising emergency service workers.

Conference believes that emergency service personnel have a right to carry out their duties free from fear, abuse, intimidation and assault. Conference therefore calls on employers to ensure they step up efforts to protect and support staff and supports the 'Protect the Protectors' Private Member's Bill which secure greater protection for emergency service workers by creating a specific criminal offence for those that attacks paramedics, police officers, firefighters and other emergency personnel.

Mover: GMB

The afternoon's session heard barnstorming speeches from Jon Ashworth on the NHS and from FBU General Secretary, Matt Wrack, on the Grenfell Tragedy. Matt talked about how every single firefighter who braved their lives entering the burning tower was an FBU member. The tragedy saw those Trade Unionists emerge as heroes, whilst we saw both failure and neglect from Royal Kensington & Chelsea council and the government.

All Contemporary Motions were passed unanimously, a real indicator of the **spirit of unity** at conference throughout this week, a theme carried on in Deputy Leader Tom Watson's speech.

Wednesday 27th

Leader's Speech

And finally, much to my disappointment – the end of conference arrived. I excitedly hurried along to Jeremy Corbyn's speech and arrived in time to secure my seat. I spent the time waiting for the event to begin talking with a colleague from Bicester CLP. We reflected on our time at conference and I was sad that it was coming to a close.

I contemplated the events of the past couple of days and felt proud to have been a part of the conference and even prouder to be a part of the Labour Party. I recognised an establishment of a sense of belonging / family within the Party and felt friendship with comrades around the room.



Jeremy delivered a groundbreaking speech and applaud, cheers and ovations reverberated around the room. The atmosphere of the hall was immense and the unity behind our impassioned leader was remarkable.

I recommend watching the speech back if you haven't already done so – there are too many excellent remarks, catchphrases and jokes to detail!

