



Dear Colleagues,

Paper 3/2019: Post-Brexit Economy

This discussion paper is looking at the Post-Brexit Economy.

As always, discussions will be more greatly informed if groups are able to include members and non-members from different age groups. Please use the opportunity of this discussion to **reach out to new voters in your constituency**. Let people know that you are interested in *them* and want to understand *their* perspective.

We want to ensure that as many associations and as many members are able to engage in this vital and wide-ranging discussion. The closing date for this brief is therefore **31 August**.

Please send your responses to the paper, via CPF.Papers@conservatives.com, using the associated response form published alongside this paper in the News section of the CPF website.

A summary of responses to this paper will be sent to the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer; CPF Chairman, George Freeman MP; and the Prime Minister's Policy Unit within a month of the closing date for submissions.

The next paper will be on **Under-18s Education** and will be published the week of 2nd September. Thank you. We look forward to hearing your ideas on this important topic.

The CPF Team

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P.S. To help generate interest and awareness, please advertise your local discussion and post a photo of your meeting on your website and social media pages.

"My beliefs when I first became an MP are the same things that drive me 22 years later as Chancellor of the Exchequer. A belief in the market economy as the best, indeed, the only way to deliver future prosperity for the British people. A belief in Britain as an open, tolerant, outward-looking nation, confident and competitive in the world. And above all, a belief in the power of business – that self-starters, entrepreneurs, investors are the engine of our economy, and the bedrock of our communities."

(Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, 22 March 2019)¹

Post-Brexit Economy

By the end of October, seven months later than originally expected, the UK will have left the European Union, in accordance with the result of the 2016 referendum.

From our first policy discussion this year, on Global Britain, it was clear that Members believe our nation's future prosperity primarily requires the Conservative Party to champion an optimistic vision of free trade; and that the biggest contribution we can make to international development and democracy is through free trade. This builds on the conclusions of our discussion after the last general election, through which Members identified the top three Conservative values as responsibility, enterprise and freedom. A UCL survey indicates that the question of sovereignty is important to three-in-five voters (58%).²

In other recent discussions, we have asked how we should fund the costs of specific areas such as university education and adult social care. In this paper we turn to broader questions of the domestic economy.

The Party remains committed to delivering lower taxes for ordinary, working people, with no return to the uncontrolled borrowing of the past. Yet, as the PM has said, while "debt as a share of the economy will continue to go down, support for public services will go up."³

Questions for discussion

1. How do we change the focus of debate from Brexit to other concerns that matter to the wider electorate?
2. What should a fair Conservative tax offer look like? How should public services be fairly funded? Which services should be funded purely by local communities?
3. How many in your group think the government should increase spending on public services, even if that means higher taxes or more borrowing? How many disagree?
4. Given our Party's commitment to delivering lower taxes for ordinary, working people:
(i) What specific taxes would you abolish or simplify? (ii) What taxes would those who want increased spending on services be prepared to see government raise?

Optional bonus questions

5. What further policies should we pursue to boost investment in infrastructure, skills and industry?
6. What investment in roads, rail, fibre and other infrastructure should we prioritise?
7. What should we do to make the UK the best place to build a tech business?
8. What should we do to maintain the UK's leadership in Financial Services?
9. What should we do to boost our exports and our attractiveness as a destination for Foreign Direct Investment?
10. Is there any other question you think should have been asked or observation you would like to make?

¹ *Annual Asian Business Awards 2019: Chancellor's speech*, HM Treasury, 22 March 2019, [link](#)

² *Polling analysis: The full extent of Britain's division brutally revealed*, Politics.co.uk, 15 April 2019, [link](#)

³ *Prime Minister: Our future is in our hands*, Conservative Press Archive, 3 October 2018, [link](#)