

The Following motion has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order Number 6.

Proposer: Councillor Harry Howard

Seconder: Councillor Chris Loftus

Motion to council - Trade Union Bill

As a major employer in Halton, this Council recognises the positive benefits that arise from the relationship that we have with recognised trade unions and believes that the relationship between employers and their employees through their collective representatives would be damaged by reducing facility time for representatives of trade unions and by removing the ability of union members to pay union dues direct from wages, as proposed in the Trade Union Bill.

This Council believes that the Bill, far from assisting employer-employee relations or improving workplace democracy, is an ideologically driven attack on the fundamental rights and freedoms of workers and as such is a threat to our democracy.

The Council notes that the Bill and associated secondary legislation will:

- Allow agency labour to be used to substitute for striking workers, currently outlawed, which would be deeply divisive and, with agency workers often doing unfamiliar jobs, could pose a serious health and safety risk to themselves and others
- Introduce very high thresholds for industrial ballots, with an extra threshold in certain public services, without doing anything to improve the ability of workers to participate in ballots
- Severely restrict the right to picket and peacefully protest, including the use of social media
- Significantly reduces trade union facility time and withdraws check off union contributions in the public sector, irrespective of the wishes of the employer

The Government's blinkered and dogmatic view fails to recognise that positive relationship between employers and trade unions benefits everyone. The employees, the employer and most importantly in Halton the recipients of our services.

This Council therefore

- 1) resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills stating the Council's opposition to their Trade Union Bill, and
- 2) Calls on Government to scrap the Bill and all associated regulation/secondary legislation.

This Council will continue to recognise that trade unions form an important part of good relations with our employees and we believe trade unions are a positive force for good in the workplace.