

Agenda Item No 8(b)

Motion to council - Trade Union Bill

As a major employer in the local area, this Council welcomes 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 elected representatives and by removing the ability of union members to pay union dues direct from wages.

This Council believes that the Trade Union Bill, far from assisting employer-employee relations or improving workplace democracy, is an ideologically driven attack on the fundamental rights and freedoms of workers to organise or take strike action. It is also deliberately designed to dramatically reduce funding to the main Party in opposition to the Government, 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 organising campaigns through social media
- Significantly reduce trade union facility time and withdraw check off union contributions in the public sector, irrespective of the wishes of the employer
- Require union members to 'contract in' to their union's Political Fund every 5 years, thereby significantly reducing the ability of trade unions either to campaign on political issues or to support political parties.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to scrap the Trade Union Bill and all associated regulation/secondary legislation.

This Council also commits to promote the positive role that trade unions bring to society. We applaud the stance recently taken by our colleagues in Glasgow City Council and in the event that the Bill becomes law, undertakes not to co-operate with any measures in the legislation designed either to reduce facility time for union representatives or to prevent union members from paying their union fees through the payroll.

Cllr. B Wright

9-12-2015