

## **COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2015**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **PROPOSED BY COUNCILLORS CERIE REEVES & JOHN SPANSWICK**

#### **Trade Union Bill 2015**

##### **Council notes:**

The Notice of Motion and the following information provided by the Members in support of their notice of motion in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's Constitution:

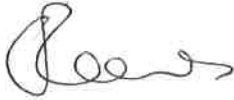
- The Trade Union Bill 2015 is intended to give effect to the commitments in the Conservative Party's manifesto for the 2015 General Election. During the Queen's Speech in May 2015 it was announced that the Government would introduce legislation to reform trade unions and to protect essential public services against strikes;
- One element of the Bill is the decision to give excessive new powers to the Certification Officer (CO), the government regulator for trade unions and employers' association;
- The Bill is expected to provide the CO the ability to investigate a trade union without reason. The CO is also expected to receive powers to obtain detailed administrative information on industrial disputes and political expenditure;
- The Bill is also expected to tighten rules on strike action by creating minimum turnout thresholds for strike ballots to lead to industrial action. In public services, at least 40 per cent of eligible union members would need to back a strike. This has been attacked by opponents of the Bill as effectively counting some abstentions as no votes;
- Diane Abbott, shadow International Development Secretary, has commented that "the Bill was an attack on the rights of working people across the UK";
- The Members ask that this Council oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015.

##### **Council believes that:**

- There are real concerns about the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the UK Government and which would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole.

**Council resolves to:**

- Oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015;
- Write to urge the Conservative Government to abandon this Bill and make a commitment to work in partnership with the Trade Union movement to achieve a fairer society.



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Councillor Ceri Reeves  
Councillor for Maesteg West



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Councillor John Spanswick  
Chairperson Community Environment and Leisure  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee