

**COUNCIL  
20 OCTOBER 2015**

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH 4.18 OF THE CONSTITUTION

**1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANTHONY HUNT**

**Trade Union Bill**

This Council notes the debate surrounding the introduction of the UK Government's Trade Union Bill. As a Council, we believe that Trade Unions have an important and positive part to play in our society and our economy, both in fostering productive industrial relations and building a fairer and more equal country. We believe that this is an important issue for the Council as we strive to retain a productive council-trade union relationship, in the interests of both service users and our workforce, something which this Bill risks undermining.

Union members working for this Council play a vital role in the education of our children, caring for older and vulnerable people, keeping our Borough tidy and providing many of the other services that are vital to our communities. Most of them are paid very modestly for the work they do, and they deserve our respect, especially after years of real-terms pay cuts and ever-increasing workloads.

Yet instead of seeking to build a fairer deal for these hard-working public servants, this Bill attacks their rights and the rights of those who represent them. We believe the proposals in the bill are counterproductive, vindictive and socially divisive and constitute an illiberal attack on democracy and fundamental freedoms, as noted by MPs of several parties in the recent House of Commons debate on the Bill.

This Council therefore resolves to oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015, urges the Government to abandon the bill and instead make a commitment to work in partnership with the trade union movement to achieve a fairer society.

## **2. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MARY BARNETT**

### **Shale Gas Exploration and Extraction (Fracking)**

#### **Rationale:**

The Welsh Government has declared a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in Wales.

There is insufficient scrutiny of current fracking operations in the UK and as a consequence these operations risk irreversibly polluting fragile water resources and established nature and tourism resources.

Fracking potentially has other undesirable impacts on communities. Exploration of unconventional fossil fuel may undermine the economic rationale for investing in a clean energy future.

#### **Motion:**

(a) this Council notes that it has a responsibility to tackle climate change and protect the environment and the wellbeing of local communities;

(b) this Council acknowledges that exploration of unconventional fossil fuel undermines action on climate change and diverts resources away from investment in a safe and secure renewable energy future;

(c) this Council notes that there are possible significant adverse impacts from shale gas exploration and exploitation, including water contamination and air pollution, and supports a 'Frack Free' declaration for this area; and - this Council calls on her Majesty's Government to impose a moratorium on shale gas in the UK

(d) this Council writes to the Welsh Government in support of its stance of a fracking moratorium in Wales

(e) we request that our officers take all possible steps to ensure that the environment of Torfaen and the amenity of its residents are protected.

### **3. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR COLETTE THOMAS**

#### **Chinese/Sky Lanterns**

##### **Motion:**

That TCBC considers banning Chinese/Sky Lanterns from any land or premises in its ownership. TCBC will work with Gwent Police and South Wales Fire Service to discourage the approval of licences for events that plan to release lanterns.

##### **Rationale:**

Chinese/Sky lanterns are made from paper covered wire or bamboo frame with an open flame heat source. The heat carries the lantern up, where it can travel for many miles from where they were released.

Lanterns can cause fire risks to livestock, agriculture and hazardous waste sites. Finished lanterns fall onto land and sea, endangering the lives of animals by:

Entanglement            animals can become trapped in lantern parts or the frame

Ingestion                animals can eat lanterns, when they fall in fields.