

## **Notice of Motion: Trade Union Bill**

Councillor Ogungbose has submitted the following motion:

“This Council is alarmed at the way in which the Conservative Government’s Trade Union Bill seeks to tear up the collaboration between employers and trade union members, and the potential impact this will have on the Council, as well as many other workplaces across our borough.

In its current form, the Bill is nothing short of an ideologically driven attack on the fundamental rights and freedoms of workers. It is also deliberately designed to dramatically reduce the funding to the main Party in opposition to the Government.

This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplace. We value their commitment to the delivery of good quality public services in Barking and Dagenham, especially in these challenging economic times for local authorities.

The Bill proposes a number of divisive measures that threaten workplace democracy. These include: very high thresholds for industrial ballots and even higher thresholds in certain public services; permitting the use of agency labour to substitute for striking workers; reductions in trade union facility time; a requirement for union members to ‘opt in’ to their union’s political fund every 5 years and the withdrawal of ‘check off’ union contributions in the public sector.

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

- Continue to offer the check-off service to all members of staff in Barking and Dagenham, in spite of Government attempts to stop it. If this is not legally possible, to come up with a local plan to enable alternative methods of payment.
- Support the continuation of trade union facility time and seek to continue, as far as possible, its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy.
- Support the Leader of the Council in writing to the Secretary of State making it clear that local Government will not be dictated to by Whitehall, particularly with regards to check-off and facility time.
- Clearly reaffirm Barking and Dagenham’s proud history of trade unionism and to allow employees’ representation to flourish in hard times – not to demonise workers as this Government is currently choosing to do.”