



# Resolutions passed at Trades Union Councils Annual Conference 2016





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## Section one

# Defence of trade unionism

## Composite 1 Trade Union Bill and direct action

Conference recognises that the Trade Union Bill represents the last in a succession of ideologically motivated attacks on the Trade Union movement and on the rights of the workers it represents. Conference notes that this legislation has progressively restricted the ability to workers to defend their rights resulting in poorer working conditions, poorer contracts, lower morale, and falling living conditions.

This conference further notes the vindictive attacks placed on the trade union movement by the Trade Union Bill. The Bill champions those without power so as to position itself against those it describes as the enemy within. The real objective of this bill is to cripple the already weak status of our industrial democracy, enflame our civil liberties and weaken the collective bargaining process on behalf of all working people considering that the union premium has often established the going rate.

Its regulations would, if enacted, enhance the legal restrictions already present and allow the law of the land to be further used in industrial disputes in an extreme partisan manner by encouraging an atmosphere of fear via structures of duress. The outcome of this Bill will make it increasingly difficult for trade union affiliates to resist attacks at work and in our communities at a time when austerity is hurting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Given that the proposed new balloting thresholds will make a large number of legitimate industrial disputes illegal, the trade union movement may be forced to look at alternative methods of industrial action. Throughout its history key campaigns, such as the civil right movement of the suffragettes' cause, were driven forward by activists committed to engaging in methods of nonviolent direct action.

Given the likelihood that a lot of conventional strikes will be made illegal, we call upon the TUC:

- i) To consider supporting affiliated unions who may employ a range of direct action techniques including sit-in, occupations and blockades during industrial disputes and recognition campaigns.
- ii) To secure for its own self-defence on behalf of all its affiliates, and for the nation as a whole, by making the case for this common cause by promoting cohesive solidarity.
- iii) To expose such breaches of democratic norms by pursuing this government through the various forums of the international community, including the ILO,

## Defence of trade unionism

which, as its signatory, the government is already in breach of many of its regulations.

Conference also calls on the Trades Union Congress to campaign for the following:

- a) The immediate repeal of the Trade Union Bill;
- b) The immediate abolition of the prohibitive fees required to make a claim to an industrial Tribunal;
- c) The restoration a level of facility time that is deemed to be acceptable by both Trade Unions and Employers
- d) A review of all existing employment legislation with a view to the repeal of the draconian measures currently in place; and
- e) Legislation to outlaw the imposition of regulations, contracts etc. without prior negotiation with Trade Unions or third party mediation.

**Cambridgeshire**

**Suffolk**



## Section two

# Environment

## 1 Fracking

The government's drive to establish a fracking industry was stepped up when it handed out new licenses for onshore gas and oil exploration in 159 blocks of 100 square kilometres each.

A large proportion of the UK land mass (almost 7 percent) has been opened up to fracking in a single stroke, vast areas of Yorkshire and North West England, as well as some areas in the south of England.

Not one of the 159 licenses applied for was refused on grounds of environmental concerns, or on grounds of concerns with the company making the bid. All the areas where fracking may be possible have now been parcelled up and sold off.

Just in Greater Manchester, a densely populated area of 2.5 million people, sizable parts of Trafford, Rochdale, Salford, south Manchester, Bury, Bolton, and Wigan have been made available for fracking exploration.

As it announced massive support for the fracking firms, another statement announced that government subsidies for rooftop solar panels are to be slashed. The support for household solar panels and small wind turbines is to be reduced by 65 percent. Government funding support for large-scale solar projects is to be ended. An estimated 9,700 to 18,700 jobs could be lost in the solar power industry as a result.

This conference resolves to oppose this Tory Government's:

- i) Support for fracking, the roll out of which would not only likely be an environmental disaster in its own right in terms of local people's health and property (from air and water pollution, earthquakes/tremors, etc.) but which studies in the USA have shown, due to the leakages of methane gas into the atmosphere, inherent in the fracking process, to be responsible for the emission of more greenhouse gases in total, than coal fired powered stations; and which would also create considerably less jobs, than the equivalent investment in renewables and energy saving/conservation measures.
- ii) Destruction of local democracy by imposing a sixteen week deadline for specified planning decisions;
- iv) Removal of subsidies to the renewable energy industry.

### **Greater Manchester**

## 2 Climate Change

That this conference notes the headline failure of the Paris COP 21 climate talks to deliver a binding legal agreement to keep climate change within anything approaching a safe limit, or to secure an adequate funding agreement to meet the costs for developing nations to move directly to non-carbon based development approaches, or to ensure any adequate policing of the individual nation carbon reduction commitments (INDCs).

Conference recognises, however, that the agreement sets a framework for future progress and reporting, takes 1.5 degrees as the desirable target limit for the first time, and these, along with the voluntary national commitments are a step forward compared to Copenhagen.

Conference notes in comparison the abandonment by the Tory UK government of any serious commitment to tackling climate change, beyond its limited EU legal obligations, while ramping up its dash for oil and gas.

Conference welcomes in contrast the Labour Party leadership's continued support for tackling climate change, and Jeremy Corbyn's backing in Paris for:

- i) The Million Climate Jobs report supported by a number of Trades Unions,
- ii) Democratising UK electricity generation along German lines, where two million German citizens and hundreds of local authorities now renewably generate their own power, and
- iii) Delivering a zero carbon Britain by 2050 (and for the parallel commitment by 150 Labour Local Authorities Leaders to achieve the same in their cities and areas).

Conference recognises that it's up to all of us to help shift public opinion and public policy on this - reports suggest that two thirds of the UK public were unaware of the Paris talks whilst they were on. Meanwhile sceptics have seriously undermined the arguments, despite the near unanimity of the actual scientific community.

We also recognise the potentially significant changes that will be required in transport to achieve net zero carbon. Electrification and/or the introduction of hydrogen or other non-fossil fuel based technologies in all ground based transport will be required. This will additionally have major public health benefits, particularly in urban areas, as we remove carcinogenic diesel particulate and nitrogen dioxide emissions that currently account for around 40,000 premature deaths a year in the UK. We agree that the TUC should support the most rapid switch possible, now that commercial electric buses, taxi and cars are on the market, in preference to hybrid-engineered vehicles which typically have only a third of the benefit. We also agree to support the acceleration of rail electrification and linked renewable energy generation, and to lobby for the necessary Government investment, including for the expansion of the workforce to deliver this.

We resolve to campaign on tackling climate change through all channels, and call on the TUC General Council to do so with the TUC's member unions, with the employers they deal with, through their contacts and connections with the wider Labour, social and environmental movements and with elected politicians. We further call on member unions to consider creating environmental & climate change champions within their union to take this work forward at grass root and negotiating/consultation level."

**York**

### **3 Public Transport as part of our Greener Cities Agenda**

Our urban environment is being choked by traffic congestion, pollution from fuel emissions and growing pressure on scarce land resources to provide more space for private cars. Local urban road transport is a huge contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and air quality, and there is a pressing need to direct resources financially and politically towards the Greener Cities Agenda by developing and expanding public transport.

Conference rejects the free market approach and the idea that competition between private companies can bring any benefit to our public transport networks. Our 30 years' experience of privatisation and deregulation of local public transport in the UK has demonstrated the failure of right wing neo-liberal ideology in this area. What is needed is serious planning and investment directed by our publicly accountable authorities to develop high quality public transport networks that are fully integrated with maximum interchangeability between interconnecting services, with high frequency services, low fares and a broad range of operability covering evening, Sunday, early morning and where practicable night service operation.

The time is now right to be bold and call for the re-municipalisation of local public transport, removing the abstraction of public funds to pay shareholder dividends and instead facilitate the reinvestment of those public funds into more and better services.

Conference applauds the 1M Climate Jobs Campaign which seeks to offer a positive alternative to austerity by way of public investment in sustainable growth, to create good jobs, expand the economy and generate more tax income – surely the best strategy to resolve the Government deficit resulting from the financial crisis. A serious element of this strategy is the public investment in public transport which at the same time fits into the Green Cities Agenda.

Investing in more and better public transport not only creates good jobs and helps regenerate the local economy; it also, at a stroke, tackles pollution and congestion and improves the environment and amenities for all.

## **Environment**

This conference call s for a campaign for the expansion and development of public transport and for a conscious policy of encouraging people to transfer from private motor cars to buses, trams, taxis, and local heavy rail services in our towns and cities.

### **South Yorkshire County Association**

#### **Amendment**

In third paragraph, after “call for the” insert “renationalisation and”.

### **West Midlands**

## Section three

# Discrimination

## Composite 2 Challenging the Prevent Legislation

Conference condemns the escalating incursions by the government into professional life in the name of security and immigration controls.

The additional duties imposed on workers in both the private and public sectors as result of the Immigration Act 2014, The Immigration Act 2015, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Prevent are both onerous and poorly defined. The government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies and 'specified authorities' to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and to implement the 'Prevent' agenda.

However, it is clear that the Prevent agenda, as part of the Government's 'anti-extremism' has developed in a highly partial and discriminatory way. For example, Kundnani's research (2009) has shown that Prevent funding has been allocated to communities solely on the basis of the number of Muslims living in a particular Local

Authority. This suggests that the only threat of violent extremism in the UK comes from members of this religious community, thereby encouraging racist stereotyping. This also ignores the large number of attacks and plots coming from white supremacists over recent years.

Conference is extremely concerned at the potential for these new duties to be interpreted in ways that marginalise particular religious and minority ethnic communities. Workers are being asked to engage in ill-defined and racist processes of ethnic profiling, often with little or no training or guidance on the support that they themselves have in the workplace with regard to these practices. The definition of 'extremist', is at times defined in practice by the extent to which Muslims support or oppose government policies. In the course of the past year a 10 year old boy in Birmingham was referred to the Prevent programme after he complained about a lack of a prayer room in his school.

Conference condemns these racist laws and the attempt to change our jobs through the workplace responsibilities imposed by these Acts and Prevent.

This conference believes that Islamophobia is massively on the increase across Europe, often legitimised by governments and the mass media. The implementation of the Act, which furthers the surveillance and demonization of an entire religious community will only serve to generate further alienation and disaffection. As trade unionists we need to speak out for equality, and against discrimination and harassment on the basis of ethnicity or religion.

## **Discrimination**

We particularly need to be wary of the continual extension of surveillance and policing powers in an era where it has been revealed that members of the National Union of Journalists have been placed on the Metropolitan Police's list of 'domestic extremists' (NUJ, 2014) for doing nothing more than exposing government or corporate misconduct.

This conference therefore resolves to:

- i) Endorse the attempts of both the University and College Union and the National Union of Students to boycott the implementation Prevent and Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015;
- ii) Call for a government anti-extremism strategy that targets all forms of domestic extremism (including white supremacism), not just that found in the Muslim community; and
- iii) Reaffirm the right of all citizens to criticise government policies and actions (as long as they do so within the confines of the law).

Conference agrees to:

- a) Liaise with affiliates and the relevant campaign bodies to develop and share suitable advice for workers and communities about the impact of the Immigration Acts 2014/2015, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Prevent on both public and private sector workplaces;
- b) Work with local trades councils, CATUCs, local authorities and relevant campaign bodies to campaign for the repeal of these measures and ensure that the outcomes of the review of Prevent and these Acts inform the TUC's strategy for further action.

And for local trades councils and CATUCs to ensure:

- 1) Union reps are informed of the impact of Prevent and to provide advice to members;
- 2) Adequate briefings and information is highlighted on the impact of Prevent;
- 3) Unions work together to ensure that members are not disciplined when they refuse to engage with Prevent;
- 4) Adequate representation and support for members who are suspected, suspended or in any way affected.

### **Bedfordshire**

#### **South Yorkshire County Association**

## **4 Fighting Racism and Fascism**

In light of recent events in Liverpool, this Trades Councils Conference calls on the TUC to engage in a pro-active approach towards fascist organisations. We recognise

that fascists have failed completely in numerous bids for electoral success and turned, at this point, to violent street activity.

We understand that fascism seeks the destruction of the organised working class and will use racism as one of its tools to spread fear and disunity.

Fascism is our enemy; skin colour and religion are distractions from the real aims which are 'divide and rule'. Our movement needs explanation that we are the targets of this dictatorial ideology, and in the process minority groups in society will be harassed, abused and murdered.

Recent physical attacks on picket lines, campaigning groups, trade union officials and activists, proves that the fascist gangs are the sharp edge of capitalism. Their well-funded organisations are designed to oppose everything we stand for, which is working class unity. Unity is strength.

We believe the task of educating and rallying our movement against racism and fascism should embrace the knowledge and experience of local activists. In particular, the groups who organised successful recent opposition to fascist rallies, and attempted fascist marches in Liverpool, should be supported and working relationships built.

Preventing fascists from marching should be our goal through many avenues, including militant anti-fascism, which has recently proved beyond doubt very successful. Allowing fascist demonstrations and marches to occur only weakens our movement.

Our movement is currently suffering from Tory ideology, stripping away everything, as trade unionists, that we hold dear. We need to raise our banner, explaining there are alternatives; an ideological defence.

We need to explain loud and clear that racism and fascism are just a smokescreen for the never-ending attacks on our class. We need to embrace the ideals of what built our movement; solidarity. We are many, they are few and we should work steadfastly to ensure it stays that way as a means of building our movement.

This Trades Councils Conference calls on the TUC & TUCJCC to:

- i) Produce literature aimed at defeating the ideology of the far-right, using class based arguments to explain the true nature of fascism.
- ii) Actively distribute this literature throughout our movement. This should be achieved not just through trades councils, trade union branches and regions, but raised and propagated at every available opportunity, explaining the true goals of racism and fascism.

### **Merseyside**

## **5 Legal right for access to public transport and services for disabled people**

Conference recognises that many disabled people are dependent on public transport and a range of services to meet their mobility and daily needs. The privatisation of most public transport and large parts of public services, coupled with continuing local authority cuts, leading to reduced subsidies to public transport and services, has worsened an already unacceptable situation for disabled people.

Conference supports public ownership of the public transport system, its expansion, full integration and rational planning, as well as reversal of cuts and privatisation of essential public services.

Conference supports the need that:

- i) There should be a specific legal duty on all providers of public transport and public services to provide service that meets that meets the needs of disabled people, not just through physical accessibility of the various modes of transport but also by timetabling that ensures adequate mobility opportunities for the disabled and their accompanying carers without time of day restrictions;
- ii) Public transport and essential services should be free to disabled people;
- iii) Operators of public transport and providers of services for disabled people should ensure that all their staff are both properly trained to be able to meet the needs of disabled people;

Conference calls upon the TUC to:

- a) Work with affiliated unions; organisations representing and campaigning on behalf of disabled people to campaign for the implementation of the above;
- b) Continue the excellent work being done on behalf of disabled people;
- c) Encourage local trades councils and CATUC to work with local disabled and campaigning groups to expose the disastrous effects the policies of the government are having on disabled people and their families;
- d) Bring a report to the 2017 trades Council Conference on progress relating to protecting and improving the rights and services associated with disabled people.

**Bedfordshire**

## **6 Transgender Rights**

This Conference notes:

- i) The prison service still has not found a fair way to deal with Transgender prisoners, and that during 2015 two transgender female prisoners died while being held in male prisons



- ii) NHS provision for Gender Identity treatment is inadequate, with only seven Gender Identity Clinics in England (and one only specialising in young people). In particular, there are no clinics in the North West, and patients from the South East are expected to travel into London.
- iii) The NHS still requires transgender people, asking for treatment, to undergo a psychiatric assessment before referral to a Gender Identity Clinic.
- iv) Transgender people frequently experience unintentional discrimination in everyday life: for example call centres who do not believe a male sounding voice can have a female name or vice versa; or full names (which might not have yet been changed) being displayed in public. Although the situation has improved, many transgender people still experience inappropriate language and even assaults in public places. Worldwide as many as 29 transgender people die as a result of abuse every week.
- v) It can be difficult for transgender people to access employment. Some transgender people are discouraged from even applying for jobs because their legal name may not match their appearance, or fearing discrimination from an employer.
- vi) The media is not good at dealing with transgender people, sometimes the person is identified as transgender when irrelevant, and stories are often sensationalised just because a transgender person is involved.

This Conference calls on:

The Government to ensure that transgender people are treated fairly, and that any particular transgender issues are taken into account, by all public services.

- a) The NHS to improve urgently access to treatment for all transgender people, ensuring sufficient Gender Identity Clinics are available in every region.
- b) The NHS to remove the requirement for a psychiatric assessment before referral to a Gender Identity Clinic.
- c) Businesses (including the media) to review their practices ensuring transgender people are not discriminated against, and to provide appropriate training so staff are better equipped to treat transgender people properly.
- d) The TUC and wider Union movement to include transgender issues in training programmes for activists, including exposure to transgender people describing their own experiences.
- e) The TUC and wider Union movement to redouble efforts to end trans-phobia and trans-discrimination, including protecting human rights of transgender people internationally.

### **Oxfordshire**

Section four

# Defence

## Composite 2 Trident

Conference calls on the trade union movement to continue its long tradition as a standard bearer for peace and international disarmament by opposing the renewal of our nuclear weaponry, including Trident, whilst protecting those who are employed within and around the industry.

The replacement of trident is an issue for every trade unionist because of the serious destructive nature of the weapons and the vast cost.

Trident is massively expensive, costing £3bn per year and scrapping it would provide the means to re-employ those engaged in its production in alternative, meaningful jobs. By ending spending on Trident estimated to cost £165 billion, money that could be used to retain and encourage job diversification, in those areas affected and to be used to spend on socially useful projects like further education, apprentices and green energy also the NHS and social housing. By comparison, building a state-of-the-art hospital costs around £545 million. Providing free school dinners for children from families in receipt of Universal Credit would cost around £500 million per year.

Money saved by ending UK nuclear weapons could generate more jobs during decommissioning, to sustain the process of defence diversification and DDA, vital to our manufacturing future, as well as other socially-useful forms of public spending.

We affirm that Trident is not independent but reliant on the United States.

Furthermore our possession of Trident acts not as a deterrent but encourages nuclear proliferation contrary to the interests of humanity and the global environment. Senior military figures have described them as 'militarily useless' and said that they should be scrapped.

State powers stockpile arms and engage in war to serve their own economic interests, not the interests of working people. Major state and corporate powers seek only further proliferation, and the utter failure of institutions like the UN, NATO and other international bodies shows that we cannot rely on such bodies to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

The military case is also not made. Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate in their destructive power, and senior military figures have described Trident as 'militarily useless'.

Conference welcomes Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to setting up a Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) to campaign to ensure those whose jobs and communities currently rely on Trident have good, well paid jobs in future.

Workers and communities in the area around Faslane, in the defence industry generally, and along the supply chain, rightly fear for the future should Trident be removed from the Clyde. Conference calls for all such workers to be redeployed on meaningful projects of real benefit to society. The £76 billion planned for the new nuclear weapons should be spent on defending public services, jobs and a future for our young people.

For this reason, the eradication of nuclear weapons needs a change of the social system. A new and democratic society, based on public ownership of the key industries and services for the benefit of all, would end the obscenity of hugely wasteful expenditure on arms.

Conference therefore commits to campaigning for the scrapping of Trident, as advocated by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, and supports a phased withdrawal in which jobs in the industry, and in the supporting supply chains, are protected or replaced with meaningful and socially useful alternatives and the implementation of a nuclear weapons free Britain under a future Labour government.

This conference also calls on all Trades Councils and unions to campaign for Britain to adhere to its obligations as signatory to nuclear non-proliferation treaty and for Solidarity in the International and Global Field.

Trades Council Conference agrees to campaign to oppose trident replacement including:

- i) Calling on the General Council to campaign against renewal of Trident;
- ii) Encouraging alternative jobs in those communities affected;
- iii) Calling upon affiliated unions not to support the renewal of Trident;
- iv) Work with other organisations and support and publicise demonstrations and events campaigning against trident replacement.
- v) Campaigning to ensure good, socially useful, jobs for all workers who might be affected by not replacing Trident.
- vi) Calling for the TUC to support and participate in the Defence Diversification Agency
- vii) Calling on government to abandon the Trident replacement and for an end to weapons of mass destruction
- viii) Supporting the work of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**Suffolk**

**Greater London**

**Cambridgeshire**

Section five

# Public Sector

## **7 Support for the NHS Bill to reinstate a publicly funded, publicly provided and accountable NHS**

This conference notes that the NHS is becoming increasingly fragmented, costly, and inequitable and the state no longer takes responsibility for the nation's health.

We need our health services to be comprehensive, transparent, equitable and affordable. The only way all these goals can be attained is through full public ownership.

On 1 July 2015, 12 MPs from five political parties including Jeremy Corbyn and Caroline Lucas tabled the National Health Service Bill in the House of Commons, based on the second version of the NHS Reinstatement Bill. The NHS Bill was scheduled for its second reading on 11 March 2016 when it was filibustered by the Tories for four and a half hours before receiving a paltry 17 minute debate. The Bill is unlikely to fare much better on the rescheduled slot on 22nd April.

We note that the NHS Bill sets out the way to fully restore the NHS as an accountable public service by reversing 25 years of marketisation in the NHS, by abolishing the purchaser-provider split, ending contracting and re-establishing public bodies and public services accountable to local communities. It gives direction for the integration of health with social care and it removes the NHS from EU competition law.

The Bill has the official backing of the Medical Practitioners Union, the BMA, The Green Party, the SNP, Keep Our NHS Public (KONP), Doctors for the NHS (previously the National Health Service Consultants Association), and Disabled People Against Cuts.

The Bill is also supported by many prominent individuals, including Joan Bakewell, Natalie Bennett, Helena Kennedy, David Owen, Wendy Savage, Melvin Bragg, Alan Bennett, Ken Loach, Sienna Miller, Michael Morpurgo, Peter Pinkney, Jonathan Pryce, Steve Redgrave, and over 70 more individuals who signed a letter published in the Guardian calling for a bill to reinstate the NHS.

This conference calls on affiliated Trades Union Councils to support the NHS Bill and encourage affiliated Trade Union branches to do likewise. It also calls on for Trades Union Councils to actively campaign for its promotion by using media and working with other campaign groups and trades unions.

We also call on individual members to promote the bill and to lobby their own MP both via the Bill's website <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/the-bill/> and directly through local action.

#### **West Yorkshire**

### **8 An End to Cuts to Public Services**

2016 is the fortieth anniversary of the savage cuts imposed by the Callaghan led Labour Government, to meet the terms of the International Monetary Fund bale out of the 1976 British loan.

Since then Government of all colours have cut back central Government funding, whenever the economy has a down turn, and Labour led Councils, have made cuts to public services, and wages, terms and conditions of their staff, plus annual job losses.

This conference calls on the General Secretary of the TUC, and her staff in London and the regions to hold a National and Regional Seminars to resist cuts to public services before there is none left to save.

These seminars would be made up of Labour MPs, Councillors, trade unions, and trades union councils, the aim would be to build a strategy to confront public service cuts.

The timescale for seminars would be late 2016, and the planned outcome would be to have an agreed position on expanding public services to go into the Labour Party manifesto in time for the General Election of 2020.

#### **Tyne and Wear**

### **9 Meals on Wheels**

Conference notes that 'Meals on Wheels' is subsidised by the taxpayer, as is the provision of food and beverages in the Houses of Parliament. Conference, however, believes that those who receive 'Meals on Wheels' should have a higher priority than MPs and those who sit in the House of Lords.

Conference is alarmed that the UK being one of the richest countries in the world, more than one million elderly people are malnourished within our nation and that the cost of malnutrition to the UK economy is £13 billion per year. Conference notes that the average cost of a hospital bed is £300 per day and that the prevention of malnutrition will save the NHS money.

Conference believes that 'Meals on Wheels' should be a statutory protected service for those considered most at risk in the community rather than one that is discretionary. Conference, therefore, calls on the TUC to make our views known to all the relevant Government Ministries.

#### **Essex**

## **10 Impact of HMRC closures**

In November 2015 HMRC announced the next steps in their modernization programme. This will lead to only one operation in Yorkshire and the Humber at Leeds. By far the biggest loser will be Bradford Metropolitan area with the loss of 2000 jobs. This will further impact upon local businesses and with the proposed Government change to Local Authority funding, especially reliance on the business rate, this will detrimentally affect the funding and consequently the services that Bradford Council can provide.

Whilst local PCS representatives have been campaigning and negotiating to save the jobs HMRC consistently refuse to take into account impact assessments of their decisions or to accept any social responsibility for their decisions to relocate.

We therefore call upon conference to:

- a) Support the struggle to save HMRC jobs
- b) Offer support to PCS in this fight
- c) Call upon HMRC to immediately halt the office closure programme until the matter is fully discussed in Parliament with full disclosure of all impact assessments.

### **West Yorkshire**

Section six

# Democracy

## 11 Decentralization and Devolution in England

The position of the TUC on devolution, agreed by the TUC Congress in September 2015, states that when proposals “have real democratic accountability at their heart, devolution can have benefits” with “properly funded public services” and a “mandate from the public through the ballot box combined authorities could usher in a new era of public service delivery in England that is more responsive to local need”.

Osborne’s model and the Combined Authorities (CA’s) based on it, meets none of these criteria:

- i) It is a one-sided business agenda driven by private profit not local need
- ii) It is a threat to public services, jobs and conditions
- iii) It is deeply undemocratic

The TUC policy document: Decentralisation and Devolution in England (7 July 2015) advocates three key elements, two concerning participation:

- a) “Public service workforce partnership councils, co-terminus with the relevant devolved authority bringing together employers, councilors and unions from across the public sector...
- b) Civil society partnerships, co-terminus with the relevant devolved authority, bringing NGOs... and others together to:
- c) Set out the key outcomes that devolution will deliver...including equality, anti-poverty, decent jobs, strong public services, tackling exclusion;
- d) Set out new ways of partnership working, replacing failed markets with collaborative forms of engagement...using new forms of finance and grant making.”

Conference notes that:

- 1) Voice and social partnership are not the same as ‘real democratic accountability’. There’s rhetoric of democracy but the reality is ‘social partnership’. This implies that there is a basis for consensus, which can be achieved through negotiation.
- 2) There are conflicting interests at the heart of the CA’s between private profit and social need, and between top-down power and participation and democracy. That is why organised union, community and citizen pressure is essential.

## Democracy

We call upon the JCC to campaign for the reform of the CA's based on the following three principles:

- A) A critical challenge to the claims for the economic strategy of the CA's, and for an alternative primed by government investment and based on meeting social priorities and the promotion of the green economy.
- B) Defence and improvement of public services, the protection and improvement of jobs and conditions and the involvement of workers and service users in policy decisions.
- C) A radical democratisation of the CA's with the full participation of citizens, communities and employees at every level of policymaking and implementation so that it is genuinely democratically accountable.

### Greater Manchester

## **12 National and Regional TUC Defence of the Leader of the Labour Party.**

This conference noted that Jeremy Corbyn addressed the Trades Union Congress days after taken over as Labour Party leader in September 2015, he said he wanted to establish a unity between the TUC and the Labour Party.

Harold Wilson who left office as Prime Minister and Labour Party leader in 1975 was the last party leader to show the same commitment to the trade union movement as shown by Corbyn. Since then Labour Party leaders have attempted to grow closer to Daily Mail readers, by distancing themselves from the trade union movement.

The landslide victory of Corbyn, has led to three former Labour Party leaders, and the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party, including members of the Shadow Cabinet, working to undermine Corbyn as party leader. These people appear to want Corbyn out as leader even if it means the Tory Government is re-elected in 2020.

This Conference call on the General Secretary of the TUC, and all her staff in London and the regions to organise a National and Regional public meetings to give support to the Labour Party Leader, who has pledged his support to the trades union movement.

The TUC is not affiliated to the Labour Party, but it cannot sit back in silence and watch a party leader who supports the trade union movement, be undermined, and removed by those in the Labour Party who care less about the trades union movement than Jeremy Corbyn does.

### Tyne & Wear



## 13 Crisis of Working Class Political Representation

Conference notes Emergency Motion 6, passed at the 2015 conference, on Securing Proper Political Representation.

The motion recognised that there was “a crisis in working class political representation” due to the failure of the Labour Party in the 2015 General Election to offer any programme or policies that would benefit working class people. The motion also called for policies against austerity and for publicly owned and provided services and industries as well as an end to anti-Trade union laws.

Conference recognises that since the last conference the surprise election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Party leader on an anti-austerity platform has changed the political agenda. Corbyn has called for political and organisational changes in the LP, for closer unity between the LP and the trade unions, and for campaigns against austerity and Trident renewal. Some of the outcomes of this political change have been the re-affiliation of the FBU to the LP and individual national leaders of trade unions, such as Matt Wrack and Mark Serwotka, joining the LP to support Corbyn, as well as the increase in LP membership over the past year from 160,00 to over 400,000.

Conference believes that these changes have created the possibility for many years of the voice of working class people and their trade unions being heard and listened to in the LP.

Conference is also aware that amongst LP MPs and the LP bureaucracy there is enormous opposition to Corbyn and his policies, as well as outside the LP in the City of London, the Armed Forces and multinational corporations. Capitalism and its defenders do not like the potential threat that Corbyn and his supporters pose to the present economic and political system.

Conference believes that a capitalist system in crisis will demand an austerity programme that makes working class people pay for a crisis they did not create. It therefore believes the growing trust by working class people in Corbyn and the policies he supports can only be sustained and enhanced by a LP developing and campaigning for policies that put an end to the anarchy of capitalism through public ownership under democratic control of the means of producing wealth. If such policies are not formulated, campaigned on and implemented when in government, the end result will be disillusion amongst working class people and once again the crisis of working class political representation will be on the order of the day.

### West Midlands

#### Amendment

At the end add

“This conference therefore calls on local trades union councils to:

## **Democracy**

- i) Continue to campaign against austerity creating maximum trades union and political working class unity;
- ii) Continue to demand an end to all anti-trade union laws by a future Labour government;
- iii) Campaign to support the democratically elected leader of the Labour Party and his socialist policies

## **Merseyside**

### **14 Towards a People's Manifesto**

The 2015 Conference resolution on the crisis in working class political representation included the sentence, "Labour's leadership election and October Conference must not see the crisis in working class political representation continue," A further motion called for close working with the People's Assembly. Conference congratulates all Trades Unions, people's Assembly activists and other anti-austerity, anti-neoliberal campaigners on being instrumental in the last year in creating to conditions of growing resistance in society that provided the basis for Jeremy Corbyn's magnificent success in the Labour Leadership election.

Conference 2016 calls on all to redouble our efforts to build a single, unified, powerful anti-austerity movement that can both challenge the Tory government and its capitalist class masters, and at the same time discourage and defeat those within the Labour Party who would wish to turn the clock back and undermine the current Labour leadership.

Conference believes we need in the coming year to begin to build a positive anti-monopoly alliance including political parties, trades unions, the People's Assembly and others, organised around a coherent alternative economic and political strategy to meet the needs of the people. Such a broad democratic mass movement with strong positive policies is the only context in which we can expect to see the next general election produce a left government on the basis of a people's manifesto.

## **Derbyshire**

Section seven

# Housing

## Composite 4 Housing

This Conference notes that there is a national housing crisis with house prices now around 6.5 times average annual wages. In many cities, house prices can be up to 13 times the average wage. This situation has a detrimental effect on the quality of life and prospects for everyone particularly children, the homeless, the poor and low waged, people with disabilities, the LGBT community and young people, exacerbated by council cuts to services. The policies of the current Government, including extending the right to buy and encouraging the sale of government land to private developers, have worsened the situation.

The Tories Housing and Planning Bill is an affront to a cohesive society. We also note the history of housing struggles such as rent strikes and campaigns against privatisation of council estates.

We further note that David Cameron has announced the demolition of so called “Sink estates” which has been drafted into the housing bill.

- i) The Housing and Planning bill limits all new tenancies to a maximum of five years
- ii) Introduces pay to stay which requires tenants in social housing on incomes of more than £40,000 in London or £30,000 elsewhere to pay market rents
- iii) Extends Right to buy to housing Associations tenants
- iv) Redefines “Affordable housing” to include homes to buy which could be up to £450,000, even with a 20% discount in the starter homes provision. In order to subsidise Housing Associations Right to buy, the bill requires councils to dispose of “High value” vacant properties. This could lose 200,000 council homes.

This Conference believes that the emergence of campaigns around housing is a welcome and overdue development.

In the trade union movement this issue impacts greatly on our members. TUC policy calls for more council housing, rent controls, greater landlord regulation.

The crisis is caused by the withdrawal of government intervention and a reliance on building unaffordable private housing. The housing crisis exacerbates severe shortages of key workers.

If the Government does not take political action on rent controls, this will ultimately lead to industrial action on pay.

## Housing

Where new housing is to be built it should be:

- a) of good design recognising the needs of disabled people and others;
- b) flood resilient;
- c) environmentally friendly as possible; and
- d) encourage residents to become part of the local community; and not exacerbate flooding problems in nearby areas.

New housing developments should include facilities for the local community where appropriate such as schools, medical facilities, and shops. Consideration should also be given to the effect on the local road network and the provision of public transport.

This Conference strongly believes that everyone should have a home.

This Conference determines to:

- 1) Publicise the impact of the crisis in housing on the supply of key workers, and hence on the quality of public services; and
- 2) Support the work of the local housing campaign and encourage similar developments in other parts of the country.

We support Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell's commitment to rent controls and a mass council house building programme. We cannot wait till 2020 to act on the housing crises. We therefore call for the following:

- A) Conference to encourage County Associations and Trades Councils to hold all tenants meetings with tenants groups, councilors, trade unions and anti-cuts groups in a mass opposition to the housing bill and to raise awareness posed by the bill;
- B) Labour councils to refuse to implement the Tory Housing bill including "pay to Stay" provision;
- C) Councils to issue lifetime tenancies;
- D) An end to Right to Buy for both Council and Housing Associations;
- E) Oppose the Tory policy of demolition of council estates in disrepair and put forward an alternative of investment and refurbishment where the estate is sound in structure. By linking up with campaigns such as Architects for Social Housing and securing Government funding for refurbishment of estates;
- F) The use of reserves and borrowing powers to provide the funds necessary to start a mass building program of council housing;
- G) Continue to support campaigns such as Defend Council Housing, Generation Rent, March for Homes and the People's Assembly; and
- H) Local trade union councils to stand with tenants fighting eviction due to this Government's policy of social cleansing and to work alongside housing



campaigns in their area offering the support and resources of their affiliated unions.

**Oxfordshire**

**Greater London**

Section eight

# Welfare

## 15 Mental Health

Conference notes that the UN is currently carrying out an unprecedented investigation into the UK social security system because of the adverse effects on disabled people of government changes to social security entitlement. There is clear evidence showing that mental illness and suicide are dramatically increasing in this country and that this is linked to the Government's policies on cutting public spending.

The Government's commitment to force over a millions people off social security benefit has resulted in the demeaning and punitive treatment of many social security claimants, especially those with mental health problems. The DWP's Work Capability Assessment test for claimants marginalise and ignore many illnesses, particularly mental illnesses. Except in extreme cases, the tests explicitly reject medical assessment of illness and substitute a crude workforce management view of a person's health and abilities. Conference notes that the TUC's Equality and Mental Health in an Age of Austerity' seminar in February 2016 reported that 'mental illness in the UK was growing at an alarming rate' with cuts to 'healthcare provision and mental health beds', 'evidence of poor quality mental health care', and 'suicide rates which have never been higher'.

Conference urges all Trades Union Councils:

- a) to work with campaign groups such as Psychologists Against Austerity to bring to public attention the cruel effects of the so-called 'welfare reforms' on people with mental health problems
- b) to urge the Trades Union Congress to carry out an investigation into the extent to which changes in social security benefit entitlement have increased levels of depression and suicide in the UK
- c) to campaign to expose the way in which the DWP Work Capability Assessment tests minimise mental illness and deny health benefits to people who are genuinely not capable of carrying out conventional work

### Lancashire

#### Amendment

At end add:

“This conference calls on the TUC and TUCJCC to campaign with DPAC for:

- i) DWP's Work Capability and PIP Assessments to be carried out only by medical doctors
- ii) Removal of job coaches from doctors' surgeries, food banks and libraries as piloted in Islington;
- iii) UWCs and trades union councils to set up committees involving PCS to support benefit claimants and fight sanctions."

### **Merseyside**

## **16 The Welfare Charter**

The UK is one of the richest countries on earth. But 1 million people use foodbanks, over 25% of children live in poverty, and 5.5 million adults go without basic clothing necessities, like a warm, waterproof coat. This Conference fully supports the TUC Welfare Charter.

There is no place for a system that sees pushing people into poverty, the threat of hunger and eviction as legitimate punishments for not being in work. We need a social security system that enables everyone to have a safe, warm home, good food, proper clothing and to participate in society.

The Welfare Charter calls for:

- i) political commitment to full employment achieved with decent jobs.
- ii) People are entitled to decent, stable secure jobs providing regular, guaranteed hours allowing them to meet any caring responsibilities; not zero hours contracts in precarious jobs.
- iii) A universal wage you can live on and a social security system that works to end poverty i.e. a National Living Wage people can live on, not just survive on, which applies to all.
- iv) No work conscription – keep volunteering voluntary. Forcing people to work for free on pain of losing benefits is simply providing free labour to organisations that should pay workers proper wages.
- v) Representation for unemployed workers. Everyone should have access to advocates to help them navigate the social security system and appeal adverse decisions.
- vi) An Ombudsman for claimants. A Claimants Ombudsman should be appointed to arbitrate on unresolved complaints, to ensure claimants are treated with respect and dignity.
- vii) Equality in the labour market and workplace; equality in access to benefits. We need a labour market where structural inequalities are overturned and a benefit system that is accessible to all.

## Welfare

- viii) An end to the sanctions regime and Work Capability Assessment - full maintenance for both unemployed and underemployed. We need a non-means tested, non-discriminatory benefit payable to all, with housing costs met allied with extensive provision of low cost housing.
- ix) State provision of high quality information, advice and guidance on employment, training and careers. A supportive, independent careers and job-broking service is essential, not linked to conditionality or benefits, offering face-to-face advice.

This Trades Councils Annual Conference calls on the TUC and TUCJCC to:

- a) Give support to the Welfare Charter
- b) Raise awareness of the issues raised and the demands made.
- c) Work with TUC Unemployed Workers' Centres, Trades Councils, CATUCs and the wider Trade Union movement to realise the objectives of the Charter.

## Merseyside

### 17 State Retirement Age

Conference welcomes the decision of the 2015 TUC Congress to campaign against the steady increases in the state retirement age which have been implanted by both Labour and Tory Governments. As Congress pointed out this has led to older workers losing their jobs because of redundancy or age-related illnesses and finding that they have several years of unemployment and poverty before they reach pension age. They are forced by the state to look for jobs which the vast majority of employers are not prepared to offer to older workers, especially those with health problems. Conference believes the increases in the state retirement age have not taken proper account of human ageing of occupational and geographical variations in workers' health and life expectancy. District NHS figures for 2010 showed that men in Blackpool live on average to 73.2 years – 10.5 years fewer than their counterparts in Kensington and Chelsea, whilst women in Hartlepool have the lowest life expectancy of 78.1 years; 9.6 years less than women in Kensington and Chelsea.

Conference recognises that workers who reach the age of 60 and are unemployed have very little chance of finding employment. As part of its campaign against increases in the state retirement age, we urge the TUC Congress to consider the idea that there should be an optional state retirement's age of 60 with full rights to the state pension. An optional retirement age of 60 would not stop those in good health continuing to work should they wish to but it would end the bullying of older workers who are sick or disabled into looking for work which they have little chance of finding. It would also remedy the current situation where women born in the 1950s have had to bear the brunt of the equalisation upward of the state retirement age. It would also make jobs available for younger workers at a time when youth unemployment is at an all-time high. Many working people die in their 60s and earlier, in spite of average statistics on greater life expectancy. The repeated increases in the state retirement age mean that some people will be forced to work



until they die, without a chance to retire. For workers who do reach the extended retirement age, many are likely to be already ill with damaging consequences for their quality of life retirement.

### **Lancashire**

#### **Amendment**

Paragraph 2, lines 4/5, after “TUC Congress to” delete “consider the idea that there should be an optional state retirement’s (sic) age of 60” and replace with “campaign for state retirement age of 60”

Add at end “Conference therefore urges the TUC to:

- i) Campaign with the National Pensioners’ Convention at national and regional level, and also with local trades councils and pensioners’ forums, to achieve a state retirement age of 60;
- ii) Organise lobbies, stalls, public meetings, street leafleting and a national petition to develop the campaign.”

### **Somerset**

Section nine

# Trade Union Councils

## **18 National Trades Council Conference**

Conference agrees that there is room for improvement in our National Trades Councils' Conference, and how it is viewed by the TUC General Council. In particular, a high percentage of conference time is spent debating motions of national political importance, which, however worthy in themselves, carry no weight when passed, since the TUC General Council only has to "note them for information.

Conference delegates can often feel that over the two days, they have learned very little about what popular local campaigns are being run, what outstanding successes some trades councils may have in terms of branch affiliations, or what excellent links have been built up with non-union working-class community organisations.

Conference instructs the incoming TUC JCC to make a thorough investigation into our national conference, and make a report with any recommended changes, including format, timetable, duration, and how resolutions are dealt with by the TUC General Council, this report to be debated in full at National Trades Councils' Conference 2017."

**Somerset**

## **19 Trades Council National Officer**

Conference recognises that this is Tom Mellish's last national trades councils' conference, and wishes Tom the very best in his retirement. Conference recognises that Tom's duties as a TUC national officer have covered more than just trades councils, and calls upon the TUC to ensure that, as a minimum requirement, there will be no cut in any new officer's allocated trades councils' time.

Conference requests that the TUC General Council recognises the progress that has been made in recent years, led by Bob Crow and the RMT, to improve the relationship between national trades councils' conference and TUC Congress itself.

If our trade union movement as a whole is once again to become a real political force in society, this cannot happen without a massive expansion in the work of trades councils, and a corresponding increase in our resources and funding.

Conference therefore calls upon the TUC General Council to secure funding so that Tom's successor as national officer assumes a role that has a single brief and job description: to be the TUC trades councils' national officer.

**Somerset**

## **20 Rules for TUCs & CATUCS**

Conference 2016 confirms the motion overwhelmingly carried at our 2014 Conference in Cardiff, deploring the omission from the reprinted Rules and Conditions for Trades Union Councils stating “In order to be recognised by the TUC, a Trades Union Council must affiliate to and play an active part in the work of its appropriate County Association of Trades Union Councils”. TUC confirmed that this had been an unintentional omission during printing and gave an undertaking to include the clause in the next reprint and, in the meantime, would be TUC policy.

Conference 2016 now calls for confirmation that the said clause will be included in the reprint currently being undertaken.

Conference 2016 further calls for clarification on how the TUC will ensure that this clause is adhered to and that such clarification will be encompassed in the new Rules Governing Disputes between Trades Union Councils and County Associations of Trades Union Councils, also currently being written.

Without unity, there can be no strength.

**West Midlands CATUC**

Section ten

# Defend Postal Services

## **21 The People's Post Campaign**

That this conference supports The People's Post campaign established by the Communication Workers' Union. This campaign sets out to defend postal services and decent employment standards in the postal industry – both of which are now under serious threat from privatisation and aggressive regulation.

As part of the People's Post Campaign conference supports the view that Royal Mail should be renationalised and that a Workers trust in Royal Mail be established that gives staff a meaningful collective voice.

Section eleven

# Income Equality

## 22 Maximum Income

Conference is disturbed and distressed by the rising income and wealth disparity of top 'earners' both in the UK and Internationally while the pay, conditions and public services for our members and the poorest in society continue to fall or be cut.

Conference is appalled by the failure of voluntary processes such as remuneration committees to control the income of the wealthiest and views approaches by government for worker representation on such bodies as 'soft soap' and a distraction.

Conference resolves to campaign to secure a national and international maximum income, including, for example, payments in the form of dividends, bonuses, share offerings, pensions, deferred payments, in-kind payments. This campaign to be undertaken in parallel with policy for a living wage.

Ref: F.D. Roosevelt Policy for a maximum income.

**Leicestershire County Association**

Section twelve

# Celebrating Trade Union History

## 23 Longton Strike and the Chartists

Conference notes that 2017 is the 175th anniversary of the events that took place in North Staffordshire in 1842, which are credited with helping to forge trade unionism and direct action as a powerful tool in British industrial relations.

The initial spark was the decision, in early June 1842, by W.H.Sparrow, a Longton coal mine owner, to disregard the law and fail to give the statutory fortnight's notice before imposing a hefty pay reduction of almost a shilling a day on his workers. The miners went on strike and soon surrounding colliery workers began showing support. The strike cause was championed by the Chartists, who called for a General Strike across the Potteries. By the end of July strikes were endemic across North Staffordshire.

On 15th August prominent Chartist orator Thomas Cooper gave a speech at Crown Bank in Hanley, urging "that all labour cease until the People's Charter becomes the law of the land." The following day, August 16th, Thomas Powys, a Burslem magistrate and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county, ordered troops to fire on a procession of strikers in Burslem. Josiah Heapy, a textile worker from Leek, was killed and many more wounded.

A total of 274 people were brought to trial in the special assizes that followed, of whom 146 were sent to prison and 54 were transported to Australia. This did not dent the popularity of trade unionism: the Miners' Association of Great Britain and Ireland was formally established on 7 November 1842 and the United Branches of Operative Potters was established on 6 September 1843.

There is currently no memorial to these events in Stoke-on-Trent, and they are largely overlooked in national and local history. On the 175th anniversary in 2017, the North Staffordshire Trades Union Council hopes to change all that by organising a major commemoration of the 1842 events and by erecting a permanent memorial to Josiah Heapy in Burslem. In this way, we hope to remember what is an important, but largely forgotten, chapter in the history of the trades union movement.

Conference agrees that TUCJCC should give its full support to this initiative.

### **Staffordshire**

## Emergency motion 1

### Support for National Museum of Wales Workers

Conference sends solidarity to the PCS strikers at the National Museum Wales who have been on all-out strike action since 28th April 2016.

There is now an urgent need for solidarity for this long running dispute as strikers have had to escalate to all-out action to bring pressure to bear on politicians in Wales to step in to get this dispute resolved.

The dispute involves the front of house staff, gallery assistants, security and cleaners who are the lowest paid workers in the museums and are facing a substantial cut of up to 15% of their pay with the loss of weekend allowances. Weekends form a large proportion of their working week because of the nature of the work with weekends being the busiest time with visitors.

It is clear that politicians need to intervene to resolve this dispute as management have dragged out this dispute for the past 2 and a half years and have blamed the need for pay cuts on Welsh Government cuts to funding

Organisations which are publically funded need to be brought to account for refusing to constructively engage with the recognised unions.

This conference instructs the TUC JCC to encourage Trades Councils to urgently:

- Send protest letters to National Museum Wales management
- Encourage affiliates to donate to the strike fund
- Send letters to the Welsh Assembly First Minister Carwyn Jones to actively get the dispute resolved with a fair settlement for front of house members
- Encourage affiliates to invite a striker to branches.

Cardiff

### Emergency motion 2

The Tory Government has launched a massive new attack on the NHS and social care

In late March the Government launched a new and devastating tsunami of cuts to the NHS and local authority social care'

Without legislation or publicity, the Government has divided all English NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities into 44 area based "Transformation Footprints".

These unaccountable bodies are to plan future NHS and social care funding across England - but with massively reduced budgets.

Despite all the cuts NHS Trusts have tried to fulfil their responsibilities to patients resulting in an average debt being £15 million pounds. Jeremy Hunt has now decreed that these "Transformation Footprints" must draw up a "Sustainability & Transformation Plan" (STP) by the end of June, and bring their budgets into financial balance. It would eliminate the £2.3 billion NHS deficit and at the same time devastate health services.

Compliance is mandatory and means unprecedented cuts in beds, hospitals and other services. "Get well in your own home" will be the message from the Government. The penalty for failure to comply would be huge losses of funding and imposition of new leaders.

This Conference therefore

- Resolves to oppose the imposition of 'Transformation Footprint'+ re-organisations, locally and nationally.
- To campaign for publicly funded, publicly provided and accountable Health and Social Care services.
- To campaign for the level of hospital beds per head of population to at least meet the European average.
- Acknowledges and applauds the grass roots movement fighting to defend our NHS - including the work of Trades Councils and the labour movement.

Ealing



### Emergency motion 3

#### Education

Conference notes that despite the significant opposition to the proposals in the White Paper, *Educational Excellence Everywhere*, published in March, the Government has reiterated that it wants all schools to become academies within multi-academy trusts (MATs) by 2022 and will force them to do so if they are in local authorities that it determines to be no longer 'viable' or to be 'underperforming'. The plans:

- will be incredibly expensive with estimates on the cost to the taxpayer as high as £1.3 billion. Forced academisation will happen at a time when funding per pupil in real terms is set to fall by as much as 8 per cent or more, meaning that scarce funds that could otherwise be spent on children's education will instead be wasted on an unnecessary top-down reorganisation of schools
- are not supported by any evidence that academy status in and of itself improves standards of education. Around 85% of local authority maintained schools are good or outstanding
- will remove from parents the right to elect representatives to the governing body of their child's school. There will be no requirement for academy governing bodies to have local authority representatives or for MATs to have elected staff governors
- entail the break-up of the national system of pay and conditions for teachers. Academy trusts or individual academies will have to make decisions at a school level. This will be a distraction from time that could be better spent on teaching and learning
- are indicative of a Government with the wrong priorities for education. The proposals in the white paper will do nothing to address - and may in fact worsen - teacher shortages, a lack of school places in many parts of the country, chaos over curriculum and assessment changes and funding pressures in schools and colleges
- have attracted widespread opposition from parents, school staff, governors, heads and MPs and Councillors from across the political spectrum.

Conference also notes that:

- Changes to curriculum and assessment introduced this year have caused chaos and confusion.
- Government expectations are inappropriate and unattainable, placing children, teachers and schools under intolerable pressure.
- The curriculum is being narrowed, children's well-being is being affected, and teacher morale is unsustainably low.

## Celebrating Trade Union History

- Schools are being turned into Exam Factories'

This Conference calls on all local Trades Councils and CATUCs to actively:

- Oppose the Government's proposals and undertake to speak out against, and encourage campaigning against the plans
- Encourage work with councils, trade unions, parents and governor groups to oppose the Government's plans
- Call public meetings to explain the attacks on education
- Support those workers engaging in strike action to defend their pay and conditions.
- encourage a debate in the labour and trade union movement to re-energise the campaign for a truly comprehensive education system with strengthened democratically accountable local authorities.

West Midlands CATUC

#### Emergency motion 4

#### Hillsborough Inquest

This Conference welcomes the Hillsborough Inquest verdict that the victims were unlawfully killed and completely exonerates the fans from any responsibility for the Hillsborough catastrophe. We congratulate the families of the 96 for their unstinting and courageous campaign to secure justice for the 96.

This verdict confirms the views held for 27 years that:

- a. There was a catastrophic failure of those responsible for crowd safety
- b. The victims and their families were subject to a sustained campaign of lies and vilification by the media, the police and other agencies of the state
- c. The South Yorkshire police played a particularly pernicious role in falsifying police accounts of events as they did in the miners' strike.

In congratulating the 96 families Conference recognise that their campaign not only secured justice for the 96, but was also a tribute to the thousands of Liverpool people who stood firm in support of the campaign for justice.

We owe a debt of honour to the families for exposing the web of lies and distortion which was used to defend those responsible for the catastrophe and we support them in their demand for those responsible to be brought to book.

Conference resolves to send this to the 96 campaign organisers and to affiliated organisations.

Liverpool

### Emergency motion 5

#### Hillsborough Disaster and the Sun Newspaper

The recent BBC documentary on Hillsborough once again showed the massive cover up that was organised to prevent the truth of the 96 deaths of the Liverpool Football Club supporters who attended the FA Cup Semi Final in 1989.

The victory of the families and campaigners at the recent Warrington Inquest has brought out the scale of the ruling class collaboration of the Thatcher government, the South Yorkshire Police and the Sun Newspaper, owned by Rupert Murdoch.

The families and Hillsborough campaign groups are now demanding that action is taken against the senior police officers and senior government officials involved, which we fully support.

However it appears that the owners of the Sun newspaper appear to be escaping totally. This Trades Councils Conference therefore calls for a new, reinvigorated campaign to be launched to boycott the Sun, including requesting newsagents to stop stocking this so-called newspaper not only in Merseyside but across the entire country.

This Trades Councils Conference therefore calls upon:

- Trades Union Councils and CATUCs to campaign in their areas for people to boycott the Sun newspaper and for newsagents to stop stocking it
- The TUC and TUCJCC to work together with Merseyside CATUC to provide support and resources for Trades Union Councils in their campaigns to boycott the Sun newspaper.

#### Merseyside

## Emergency Motion

Support PCS BIS strikers and keep “Northern Powerhouse” jobs in Sheffield

This National Trade Union Councils Conference congratulates PCS civil service members taking strike action against the closure of the Government’s Business, Investment and Skills (BIS) Sheffield Office, and stop their 250 jobs being transferred to London. These are the very jobs expected to deliver on George Osborne’s so-called “Northern Powerhouse”.

This Conference utterly condemns this Government’s hypocrisy and double standards on this closure of Sheffield BIS which makes a mockery of the whole “Northern Powerhouse” project.

Meanwhile good trade unionised jobs in Sheffield and the surrounding area are haemorrhaging at an alarming rate. Hundreds of jobs have been lost at Sheffield City Council due to vicious austerity spending cuts that have more than halved the Council’s budget since 2010 – with more to come. Similar cuts have lost good jobs in Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster Councils. Several hundred steel jobs in Rotherham and Stocksbridge hang in the balance as foreign multinational owners decide whether to cut or run in the face of short term market downturns. Over 600 Sheffield HSBC office jobs are to go shortly in spite of that company’s assurance to the contrary to the Council only months ago.

Just over a week ago came the shock announcement that Polestar’s modern printing works in Tinsley, Sheffield is suddenly closing with 618 job losses due to bankruptcy. UNITE shop stewards were the first to be sacked so that the workers had no representatives on site to help them. Questions are being asked how Britain’s largest and most modern printing works, which produce colour supplements and top brand magazines, could fold so spectacularly.

George Osborne’s “Northern Powerhouse” is now as bankrupt and worthless as Polestar’s printworks. It certainly is bankrupt of ideas or initiatives to stem this torrent of lost jobs we are facing.

All the more reason to support our PCS members at Sheffield BIS who are taking the lead by organising strong strike action to defend their jobs. In supporting them we encourage a similar fightback by all those who face attacks on their jobs and conditions.

“If you fight, you may not always win. But if you don’t fight, you will surely lose”

## South Yorkshire

## Celebrating Trade Union History





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