
SPECIAL MOTION NO. 6 – TRADES UNIONS

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Max Schmid
- (ii) Councillor Lisa Homan

“The Council notes the countries and governments throughout time that have sought decay and attack the role of trades unions in their societies have been some of the worst, totalitarian regimes in history. Those have included many despicable regimes such as Apartheid South Africa, Pinochet’s Chile and the fascists regimes of Europe in the 1930s and 40s.

The Council believes that trade unions have many strengths and play an important part in representing hard working people and ensuring fairness at work. As Pope Francis says *“Trades Unions have been an essential force for social change”*. That said, this Council also recognises that there are weaknesses within the trades union movement and notes that at the last borough elections a Trades Unions and Socialists Against Cuts candidate chose to stand in a previously marginal Labour ward and therefore became a de-facto ally of the Conservative Party in their unsuccessful bid to hold onto control of what had been known as “Cameron’s favourite council”.

This Council considers that trades unions have an important role to play in society and expects management, members of staff, contractors and trades unions to all work together to build an effective, customer service orientated council that delivers high quality, good value services to residents with employees treated with respect, in positive working environments and on fair pay, terms and conditions.

The Council calls on the Conservative Opposition to learn the lessons of history, to stop union bashing and take a more balanced and reasoned view of trades unions."