Dear Councillor …...…….

Imagine if you had no control over who provides Council funded services – that you were forced to put them all out to tender and to take the cheapest bid, even though it meant paying workers the minimum wage or even less. Imagine that if you tried to renew the contract with a better provider or bring it in-house, the current multinational contract-holder would sue you.

Well – all this will happen if we allow the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to be successfully negotiated.

You’ve probably heard about this treaty already - a deal between the EU and US that would lock-in future UK governments to irreversible commitments.

We are told that TTIP will increase trade by reducing tariffs, such as import tax, although these are already low between the EU and US, and that it will bring growth and jobs. However independent research indicates little significant growth and serious job losses of 600,000 in the EU alone under TTIP.

There’s growing public concern about TTIP’s emphasis on deregulation and reduction of regulatory standards between the EU and the US, governing, for example, public health, labour rights, food safety and pharmaceuticals, and the power of an unaccountable Regulatory Cooperation Council in future.

If TTIP goes through, Local Authority public services will become highly vulnerable to transnational corporations keen to exploit their new right to access local as well as national government spending, and to control public procurement. Tendering decisions will be decided only on cost, not quality, and ‘performance requirements’ (such as the minimum wage, gender balance or use of local labour) will be outlawed. The autonomy of local authorities to carry out social policies will be severely restricted and democratic accountability compromised.

We are particularly concerned about the effect of all this on Local Authorities’ ability to plan public health services and how you might find corporations, rather than local authorities, controlling the nature and quality of these.

There is growing public demand that TTIP negotiations are brought to an immediate halt. We ask that you support the forthcoming motion to declare …[name of LA]…. a TTIP free zone.

Yours faithfully

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