

Urgent Notice of Motion.

Council – 28 January 2015

Reason for Urgency – Given the recent announcement by TATA Steel to cut so many jobs locally, there is a need to act swiftly to seek ways of supporting those affected.

Notice of Motion: Councillors R C Stewart, C Richards, C E Lloyd, R Francis-Davies, J A Raynor, J E C Harris, A S Lewis, D H Hopkins, M C Child & W Evans

Council is shocked by the recent devastating announcement of 1050 job losses within the UK steel industry but particularly at the Port Talbot steel works which will see 750 high quality, high paid manufacturing jobs lost to the town of Port Talbot and the wider Swansea Bay City Region. In addition, it is estimated that a further 1200 jobs could be at risk in the support and supply sectors, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Council condemns the inactivity and lack of intervention by the UK Conservative Government at Westminster on issues such as offering reduced energy costs to this sector, dealing with the cheap steel imports from China, which is crippling this industry and generally failure to support this important manufacturing industry, as has been the case in fellow European countries like Italy and Germany.

To this end we propose that the Leader of Council write to the Prime Minister expressing our grave concern over this announcement, the impact this will have on our local communities and asking him to:

1. Commit to more direct intervention and extra Government resources over the medium and long term to secure the sustainability of the steel manufacturing industry in the UK.
2. Urgently support Welsh Government in its efforts to assist those employees made redundant, particularly in regards to redeployment, retraining and reskilling.
3. Support Welsh Government proposals to create an Enterprise Zone that encompasses the Port Talbot steel works site including the use of Enhanced Capital Allowances.

Finally, Council resolves to take whatever steps it can to help mitigate the impacts of this devastating announcement.