



**Council – 30 March 2023**

## **Notice of Motion**

### **The Brexit Risk to our Rights - The Retained EU Law Bill**

**Notice of Motion from Councillors Rebecca Fogarty, Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Jan Curtice, Yvonne Jardine, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Nicola Matthews, Elliott King and Robert Francis-Davies**

So far, leaving the European Union has harmed our national standing in the world, cost our economy billions in lost trade and created uncertainty and paperwork for citizens and businesses across the UK. 65% of the British public think that the Conservative Government is handling Brexit badly.

The Retained EU Law Bill will give Government Ministers the ability to pick and choose which EU rules they will keep and which to scrap. This includes basic, but hard-fought, protections such as health and safety at work, disability protections and maternity rights. This risks causing further harm at a time of economic difficulty for many by ripping up 4,000 basic rights and protections with minimal parliamentary scrutiny and locking into the UK statute books the Conservative obsession with deregulation at all costs. It is particularly concerning to see attempts to sideline the sovereignty of Parliament at a time when there seems to be a new scandal involving UK Government Ministers every week, undermining public trust and confidence in our leaders to do what is in their best interests.

Like communities across the UK, Swansea is deeply affected by the cost of living crisis, with people living evermore precariously. The Government's priority at this time must be to secure economic prosperity, and prevent any further harm being done by those who wish to use Brexit as an opportunity to weaken hard fought rights and protections.

Therefore, this Council:

- urges the Government to rethink sunseting EU laws through the Retained EU Law Bill.
- calls on the UK Government to make a commitment to uphold all existing rights and protections afforded to us in EU legislation.
- asks the Leader to write to the Prime Minister outlining this Council's steadfast opposition to his Government's regular attacks on fundamental human rights.
- asks the Leader to also write to the Leader of the Opposition in Westminster, seeking assurance that as the Bill makes its way through Parliament, every step will be taken to fight this outright attack on Parliamentary democracy, including through focusing public scrutiny on the rights and protections we stand to lose.