

**NOTICE OF MOTION****GREEN GROUP****THE TRANSPARENCY IN LOBBYING, NON-PARTY CAMPAIGNING, AND  
TRADE UNION ADMINISTRATION BILL**

“This Council calls upon the city's three MPs to reject Part 2 of the so-called ‘gagging’ Bill as it will have a deleterious effect upon vital, meaningful civic engagement in democratic life. It will strike at the very core of an English tradition: the right to disagree.

As the Bill stands, it will severely curtail, and place a costly, indeed surreal administrative burden upon charities, especially in the year before a General Election. Such charities' political lobbying is, of course, already regulated by the Charity Commissioners.

As the independent Commission On Civil Society And Democratic Engagement panel, Chaired by Baron Harris of Pentregarth (former Bishop of Oxford), has concluded in a recent report: “the combined effect of lowering the threshold for registration, cutting spending limits, introducing a cap in constituencies and broadening the scope of activities subject to regulation is extensive: it is likely to result in a broad range of everyday issue-focused campaigning being caught by the Bill”.

There is opposition to these from organisations as varied as the Christian Institute and the National Secular Society; the Countryside Alliance and Friends of The Earth. Furthermore, the Joint Committee on Human Rights has expressed concern that, with organisational costs being taken into account, the Bill would harm the fundamental right to assembly for rallies and marches.

We believe campaigning organisations are vital to a healthy democracy and civil society. To curb them through this bill would be incredibly damaging to our democratic well being.

In light of the recommendations by the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement, we ask that the Bill be rejected - so that the next General Election can be conducted in an open and honest fashion, without a gag being placed upon those it is meant to represent and help.

Proposed by: Cllr Hawtree

Seconded by: Cllr Buckley

Supported by: Cllrs Bowden, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Phillips, Powell, Randall, Rufus, Shanks, Sykes, Wakefield and West.