

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)**

“This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business and Skills expressing its deep concern at the developing TTIP, the secretiveness of its processes and its potential impact on public services, social and environmental protection, financial regulation and basic democratic oversight. Council is particularly concerned about the potential implications of TTIP with respect to the city of Brighton and Hove, regarding social and environmental effects, and across the spectrum of public services.

Further to this, Council requests assurances from the Secretary of State that the Government will seek full openness to TTIP position texts and that he will endeavour to ensure access to TTIP documentation and development by the UK public including concerned residents of Brighton and Hove.”

Proposed by: Councillor Sykes Seconded by: Councillor Littman

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

Supporting Information:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a “free trade” deal currently being negotiated by the EU and US. Negotiations began in July 2013 and are still ongoing. The sixth round of negotiations is taking place between 14th and 18th July 2014 in Brussels.

The major focus of TTIP is reducing ‘non-tariff barriers to trade’. In practice, this is likely to mean slashing rules and regulations introduced by democratic processes to address corporate power. The aim of this deal is to facilitate markets for corporations. While proponents argue that this will mean more jobs and growth, there is little evidence for this. In reality, TTIP will mean more profits and power for wealthy corporations, with potentially disastrous consequences for the rest of us. Social and environmental protections we have fought for in Brighton and Hove could be under threat.

Although negotiators are trying to keep this deal as secret as possible, leaked texts and expert analysis show that TTIP will mean the following:

- **Corporate courts:** Through a mechanism known as the ‘Investor-State Dispute Settlement’ (ISDS), TTIP would grant corporations the right to sue governments, if governments make decisions which reduce their profits. This would take place through an international arbitration process that bypasses existing legal systems. In the past, ISDS has been used by tobacco giant Philip Morris to challenge Australia’s decision to introduce blank cigarette packaging, and by US oil company Occidental Petroleum, who won over a billion pounds in a claim against Ecuador.
- **Slashing regulation:** TTIP would place hard-won rules and regulations that protect the environment, workers’ rights, public services and consumer standards under threat by ‘harmonising standards’ between countries. This would mean a race to the bottom in terms of pay and working conditions, environmental protection and food safety standards. It would also give the banking lobby a tool to undo the still inadequate strengthening of financial regulation achieved since 2008.
- **Forcing new unfair trade rules on the poor:** Although TTIP is being drawn up between the EU and the US, if TTIP is agreed, countries in the global south will come under huge pressure to apply TTIP standards to avoid losing trade from the EU and US. The European Commission is upfront about its aim to secure “global convergence toward EU-US standards which could then become de facto global standards” (see here). This is a further assault on the independence and sovereignty of those countries’ economic policy-making.

TTIP will lock in the privatisation of our public services, erode government protection for people and the environment and threaten a new round of unjust economic reforms forced on the poor. In the UK, this would mean locking in the privatisation of the NHS, an easier ride for fracking companies, an attack on workers’ rights and declining standards for food safety, consumer rights and financial stability.