



BLACKPOOL FYLDE AND WYRE TRADE UNION COUNCIL

presents – **BLACKPOOL DESERVES BETTER**

At the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool, 13th May 2017

Why BFWTUC organised this Conference

Blackpool Fylde & Wyre Trades Union Council is organising a campaign aimed at improving pay and calling for investment to create long term employment opportunities available in the Blackpool and Fylde area. We are joining the call for the minimum wage to be a real living wage of at least £10 an hour and will be working with Fight for 10 and Fast Food Rights amongst others to win for all in our community.

Manufacturing has all but disappeared and been replaced by end of the pier seasonal jobs, low paid, non-union, and casual. If we are to prosper together, everyone needs a well-paid, secure union job, in which they can live their lives free from the stresses and strains of low pay and insecurity.

Poverty is a real issue for too many in our community and we feel strongly that many of the town's problems stem from the lack of long term secure employment opportunities. We need to improve the conditions of workers in these 'end of the pier' industries, by building a strong union to represent their interests fighting for contracts, fighting for higher pay, fighting for dignity and respect - turning bad jobs into good jobs.

We disagree with those politicians blaming migrants or benefit claimants for our hardships.

And whilst political parties such as the Conservatives and UKIP have given our communities groups to blame, they have no real plan to tackle the problems associated with lack of employment or low pay, and no plan for improving our town and ensuring a better future for our community.

This campaign will be looking at how Blackpool and the Fylde can benefit from the Campaign for a million climate jobs and secure real long term job opportunities for the people of Blackpool.

Fracking sites situated in the Fylde presents a real risk and won't create the job opportunities needed for our community. It is also a huge risk to the current employment generated through tourism, as many people may stay away due to the associated risks relating to fracking. This would be a catastrophe for all who live and work in our communities across the Fylde.

We see this as an opportunity to bring our movement together to offer the people of Blackpool a better future. Trade unions are a key part of our society and we see this campaign as showing our community that trade unions offer an opportunity to build a better future for all that live here.

Our community deserves a fairer future that stops looking for scapegoats we need to deal with the real problems no amount of hate will end a zero hours contract, no amount of discrimination will improve pay. It is only by working together that we can change our community and that's why we need your help to build a fairer better society for all.

In conclusion -

We need to bring back hope and opportunity and a future for all, one which protects our environment and creates highly skilled jobs, that turns our 'end of the pier' insecure jobs into contracted well paid union jobs and one that ensure that no young person in Blackpool faces a life of poverty and joblessness.

It's time for our community and our unions to come together and fight for these rights.