

# Spring Conference 2024

## POLICY MOTION

# Mitigating Business Cuts and Closures to Support Communities in Wales

AGREED BY THE WELSH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE

Conference notes:

- A. The devastating impact of recent business closures in Wales, including 2 Sisters in Llangefni on Welsh communities.
- B. The devastating impact of recent job losses in Wales, including Tata Steel in Port Talbot axing 2,800 jobs, and Nidec Control Techniques in Newtown axing 100 jobs.
- C. The significant impact these closures have caused, affecting individuals of all ages and backgrounds, from experienced workers facing reskilling challenges to young apprentices whose training opportunities have been cut short.
- D. The ongoing economic uncertainty and threat of further closures, deepening anxiety and insecurity for families and businesses across Wales.

Conference believes:

- I. The Welsh economy deserves a proactive and holistic approach to prevent further business closures, revitalize struggling industries, and foster sustainable job creation.
- II. All affected workers, regardless of age or skill level, deserve comprehensive support to navigate through this difficult time and secure long-term employment opportunities.
- III. Strong collaboration between the UK and Welsh governments is crucial to provide sufficient financial assistance, skills development programs, and investment in alternative industries for Wales.

Conference resolves:

1. To call on the UK Government to:
  - a. Implement a proactive industrial strategy dedicated to supporting existing industries in Wales, focusing on modernization, innovation, and green transition initiatives.
  - b. Increase financial support for struggling businesses, including grants, loan guarantees, and tax breaks, to prevent closures and promote investments in new technologies and training.
  - c. Establish a comprehensive reskilling and retraining program tailored to the needs of displaced workers, offering access to vocational training, career guidance, and financial assistance during transition periods.
  - d. Increase the minimum wage and strengthen worker rights to protect vulnerable employees during economic downturns.
2. To call on the Welsh Government to:
  - a. Allocate additional funding to support affected communities, providing emergency financial aid, mental health services, and community outreach programs to address the immediate hardships caused by job losses.
  - b. Partner with local businesses and educational institutions to create apprenticeship and job placement opportunities for young people impacted by business closures.
  - c. Invest in infrastructure and digital connectivity projects to attract new businesses and industries to Wales, diversifying the economy and creating new employment opportunities.
  - d. Invest in regional development programs to attract new businesses and diversify the local economies in affected areas.
  - e. Strengthen collaboration with local authorities, businesses, and community organizations to implement effective support measures.
3. To urge both governments to:
  - a. Work together to establish a joint task force dedicated to tackling the specific challenges faced by Welsh communities reliant on manufacturing industries.
  - b. Prioritize transparent and open communication with affected workers and communities, ensuring their voices are heard and concerns addressed throughout the process.
  - c. Advocate for fair trade practices and policies that protect British industry from unfair competition, both domestically and internationally.