

Why I'm standing on 5 May

Over the last five years I've tried to turn the Greens left, but to no avail. They are obviously good about the environment but have no idea about the class struggle and don't want to get rid of capitalism, with the exception of Derek Wall (leading Green economist) and a few others.

I left the Greens and re-joined the Socialist Party because we do want to get rid of capitalism. I'm proud to be standing in the local elections as a TUSC candidate fighting against all the cuts and for socialism.

Jes Waring, TUSC candidate and elected Green councillor for Stroud Town Council, Valley ward



Large parts of the ward where I am standing are social housing. Some tenants have been waiting decades for refurbishment of their decaying homes, and yet the council has cut funds for housing. I am standing for investment not cuts, for new homes and refurbishment of existing homes.

Doug Lowe, TUSC candidate, Forches and Whiddon Valley, North Devon District Council

I'm involved in North Devon Anti-Cuts Alliance and am a member of Unite and RMT. But it's not enough to make the arguments about what councils should be doing to stop the cuts and then not stand. So I'm standing to try to put those arguments across as someone people can vote for.

Paul Dyer, TUSC candidate, Yeo Valley, North Devon District Council

This government has dealt young people, especially college students, a double whammy. First they raised tuition fees, which makes me question if I can afford a university education. Then they replace EMA with an underfunded system, which makes me question if I can even afford to go to college next year. How can my parents support me, when they themselves are under threat of losing their jobs? We need ordinary working people to represent ordinary working people.

Suraj Shah, college student and TUSC candidate, Rushey Mead, Leicester



Suraj Shah

There are an estimated 90,000 public sector jobs to go in Scotland in the next four years alone. You would look in vain for any commitment from either the SNP or Labour to stand up to the Con-Dem government and refuse to make

the cuts. That's why it's so important to elect MSPs who will oppose all cuts and demand the setting of 'needs budgets'. In Glasgow, George Galloway - Coalition Against Cuts is offering that alternative and deserves the support of all public sector workers and those who rely on public services.

Brian Smith, Coalition Against Cuts candidate and Glasgow Unison branch secretary (personal capacity)

You have to go back to the 1920s to see cuts as deep and as brutal as those being carried out today. No politician with an ounce of principle or courage could fail to stand up and be counted. Yet too many politicians seem prepared to inflict the Tory cuts on those who elected them. The SNP government has meekly carried out the £1.3 billion worth of cuts asked of it by the Con-Dems. That's why in this election Solidarity - Scotland's Socialist Movement is standing across Scotland to offer an alternative and shake up the establishment.

Jim McFarlane, lead candidate for Solidarity North East Scotland and Chair of Dundee City Unison (personal capacity)

Library closures in Stroud are some of the worst in the country and youth services are being decimated. As coordinator of Stroud Against Cuts I'm helping to organise the fightback. Labour and Greens are in opposition and have protested against cuts. But it's TUSC candidates who have consistently argued in the anti-cuts groups and trades council for 'no to all cuts', a position now largely accepted.

Chris Moore, TUSC candidate for Stroud District Council, Uplands ward



Jacqui Berry

As a nursing student, I see on a daily basis how the NHS is being dismantled. However, it is not just in health that services are being cut and privatised. All three of the major parties are agreed that it is ordinary working people who should foot the bill for the economic crisis - allowing those responsible, the banks and big business, to carry on regardless. We need councillors who oppose these cuts, in words and actions. I'm standing for TUSC at the local elections because I believe ordinary people need to take a stand against the cuts, privatisation and mass unemployment of the three major political parties.

Jac Berry, TUSC candidate for Gillingham South

I am standing as a TUSC candidate because I am angry. I am angry that this Con-Dem coalition appears able to attack our communities with impunity. The victory against the Poll Tax showed that, given the correct political leadership, we can defend our class. The inspirational local campaign, led by young women, organised and won the fight to defend the Sure Start Children's Centre in Folkestone from savage cuts and closure. This is further evidence that it is possible to defeat the cuts. The magnificent campaign led by the mums should give us all confidence that we do not have to sit by and let this Con-Dem coalition destroy our communities.

Eric Segal, TUSC candidate for Cheriton ward, Folkestone

Fight the cuts - strike, demonstrate, stand against cuts

Spats over the referendum on the alternative vote (AV electoral reform) between the Con-Dem coalition partners reflect the pressure on them from increasing opposition to their vicious cuts.

They are attempting to destroy the health service, public sector pensions and hundreds of thousands of jobs. Following the 26 March half-million strong demo the NUT and ATL teachers' unions, civil servants in the PCS and academic staff in UCU have voted in support of taking strike action against cuts with plans to coordinate this on Thursday 30 June.

Local demonstrations will give other workers a chance to show their opposition to cuts and support for strike action.

On 5 May over 9,500 council seats will be contested across England, as well as elections to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies and the AV referendum.

Millions of people will see these elections as an opportunity to express their hatred for the axe-wielding Tories and Lib Dems. However, while there is no mass party through which working class people can effectively fight the cuts, Labour is likely to benefit from this desire to punish the government. But this will not be done with great enthusiasm - Labour's slogan of "cuts too far too fast" is not a rallying call and their record of implementing brutal cuts in local government means huge suffering.

But as the working class in Britain begins to flex its muscles, the need for an independent political voice is increasingly urgent.



At least half a million marched on 26 March photo Suzanne Beishon

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition - which is standing in over 180 seats on 5 May - is a step towards such a party.

All TUSC candidates have signed up to the following local election platform:

- Oppose all cuts to council jobs, services, pay and conditions - we reject the claim that 'some cuts' are necessary to our services.
- Reject above inflation increases in council tax, rent and service charges to compensate for government cuts.
- Vote against the privatisation of council services, or the transfer of council services to 'social enterprises' or 'arms-length' management organisations, which are first steps to privatisation.
- Use all the legal powers avail-

able to councils, including powers to refer local NHS decisions, initiate referenda and organise public commissions and consultations, to oppose both the cuts and government policies which centrally impose the transfer of public services to private bodies.

• When faced with government cuts to council funding, councils should refuse to implement the cuts. We will support councils which in the first instance use their reserves and prudential borrowing powers to avoid passing government cuts on - while arguing that the best way to mobilise the mass campaign that is necessary to defeat the cuts is to set a budget that meets the needs of the local community and demands that the government makes up the shortfall

The National Shop Stewards Network has produced a model resolution on the next step for the workers' movement. Please move it in your trade union and anti-cuts campaigns.

This [union branch/anti-cuts organisation etc] believes that the 26 March TUC demonstration of at least 500,000 trade unionists, young people, pensioners and community campaigners has sent a deafening message to the Con-Dem coalition that working class people will fight their £81 billion cuts package.

This [union branch/anti-cuts organisation etc] recognises that, while the march has given everyone a huge boost of confidence, it won't be enough to stop the cuts.

Already the new financial year has seen still more local authority workers losing their jobs, no matter which party leads the council.

Cameron and Clegg have public sector pensions in their sights and the announcement of the privatisation of HMP Birmingham is another sign of this government's desire to roll back all past gains of working people in this country to boost the profits of big business.

Therefore, this [union branch/anti-cuts organisation etc] believes that as soon as possible, the TUC General Council, in

accordance with their policy, should:

Discuss the fight against the cuts and to defend public sector pensions in particular and "support and coordinate campaigning and joint industrial action, nationally and locally, union industrial action, nationally and locally, opposition to attacks on jobs, pensions, pay or public services". TUC 2010 conference (composite 10)

Discuss coordinating strike action against the cuts.

Advocate that unions combine to plan for a 24-hour public sector general strike as a step towards a one-day general strike of all workers.

Discuss with those unions who have already committed to balloting on pensions about organising a midweek march in London to coincide with strike action so other trade unionists can show their support to those striking and demonstrate their support for strike action against these attacks which affect all workers.

How can RMT members build TUSC to fight cuts?

All RMT members welcome
Thursday 12 May, 6pm
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross St, NW
Nearest tube Euston

Speaker: Alex Gordon - RMT president (personal capacity)
Sponsored by Camden 3 and Neasden 1070 Branches of the RMT

