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How Can RMT members Build TUSC to Fight Cuts?

Open Meeting

Thurs 12 May

6pm at The Exmouth Arms

1 Starcross St, NW1 - Nr Euston Station

Speaker: Alex Gordon - RMT President (personal capacity)

All RMT members welcome

TUSC - Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition

No cuts – no privatisation

TUSC was set up last year with the backing of fighting trade unionists, including RMT general secretary Bob Crow and president Alex Gordon, leading national officers of the PCS civil service union, and Nina Franklin, vice president of the National Union of Teachers.

Many RMT branches supported TUSC candidates in the 2010 general election because, as well as taking industrial action to protect our members, trade unionists need a political alternative to the parties of cuts and privatisation. We need to start the process of building a new political voice for the trade union movement and working class communities.

TUSC is a federal 'umbrella' coalition with an agreed core policy statement. Its core policies include opposition to public spending cuts and privatisation, student grants not fees, the repeal of the antitrade union laws, and the clear socialist commitment to "bringing into democratic

public ownership the major companies and banks that dominate the economy, so that production and services can be planned to meet the needs of all and to protect the environment".

"Labour councillors will be your community's first line of defence against the damage being done by the Tory-led government and their Liberal Democrat allies. Labour is your voice in tough times," claims the Labour Party's website. But tell that to the residents of Manchester where the Labour council is making £279 million of brutal cuts in jobs and services over two years. In fact, every Labour-led council has voted through cuts, saying 'we have no choice' - so what sort of defence is that?

But in 55 local authorities, as well as in the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly elections, over 180 candidates are standing on the no-cuts platform of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC).

See www.tusc.org.uk for information on candidates in your area.



“ The Tories, Lib Dems and Labour all support cuts, privatisation and the anti-union laws.

They all want us to pay for a crisis we didn't create.

The bankers pay themselves millions in bonuses and big business taxes go uncollected while our jobs and services are savaged. These cuts are unnecessary and can be defeated. We need to build an alternative. That's why I'm helping to build TUSC. ”

Bob Crow, RMT general secretary and TUSC national steering committee

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 available 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.