The referendum on 23 June is not just about the EU but is also an opportunity to pass verdict on Cameron and his rotten government.

An ‘out’ vote would strike a mortal blow at the government. It could lead to the calling of a general election and the downfall of the detested Tories from power. So voting ‘out’ is particularly important.

In this battle between the pro and anti-EU forces, Cameron has placed his fate at stake and that of other cabinet ministers in the ‘in’ camp, including George Osborne and Theresa May. Even if they score a victory, if it is narrow their authority would be severely damaged. Also, the massive infighting in their party is tearing it apart, whatever the result.

With the announcement of the referendum, the gloves came off. London Tory mayor Boris Johnson took the ‘out’ side - a significant rebuff and setback for Cameron. The overwhelming majority of the Tory party’s grassroots want ‘out’, plus around 120 Tory MPs - a number barely short of the 129 reported by the Daily Mirror as wanting to remain in the EU.

It is wrong and a serious miskate for Jeremy Corbyn and Labour to be supporting an ‘in’ vote that could inadvertently lead to an escape for this Tory government on the ropes. They should reverse course and help to bring down Cameron and Co so a general election can be called.

As the four-month campaign develops, Cameron will pull out all the stops they can - including calling in more support from government leaders across the globe, from the US to China.

Capitalist politicians on both sides of the debate are whipping up fear and threats and this will reach a fever pitch.

The spectre of greater vulnerability to terrorism has been raised by ministers Iain Duncan Smith and Michael Gove if EU membership remains and by Cameron in the event of Brexit. But all of them support the bombing of Iraq and Syria which feeds the scourge of terrorism.

Working class people have no shared interests with pro-big business, cuts-inflicting right-wing politicians, whether they are for or against EU membership.

While strongly distancing itself from the nationalist, pro-capitalist positions of anti-EU Tories and Ukip, the workers’ movement needs its own voice against the EU in this referendum, to oppose the bosses’ club that the EU is, and to fight for the interests of ordinary people in Britain and across Europe.

Continued on page 4
JUNIOR DOCS: BACK NEW STRIKES

Three 48-hour walkouts Coordinated strikes and demo needed

Junior doctors have announced three fresh 48-hour strikes, from March 6 to 8, to push home their series of escalating strikes and demands to impose a new contract on them.

As a junior doctor, you have the advantage. This is a united and determined, but short-sighted, movement. In no way does the contract lose but win for junior doctors.

Support
Public support remains high. From hospital cleaners to teaching support workers and even the RMT, it is a cause worth fighting for.

Follow us on Twitter @Socialist_Party

‘Tourism’ twaddle
The Tories have admitted they have no evidence to support their说法 that Britain is ‘a beacon of tourism’.

They have said that the tourism sector is worth £8.5 billion, but this is largely due to the success of one tourist authority, which is actually losing money.

The real benefit of tourism is that it helps remote primary schools, but the government is closing a fund to do this.

The government is also removing a major stumbling block from its attempts to attack migrants, which undermines pay. Leaving public services and marketisation of welfare are in work. Like many others, the Socialist Party fights every cut to education. Fund free, nutritious, hot meals for kids during her tenure, leading to her dismissal. Thatcher ended free milk for schoolchildren.

Proper nutrition is essential to children's education. The Socialist fights every cut to education. Fund free, nutritious, hot meals for kids during her tenure, leading to her dismissal. Thatcher ended free milk for schoolchildren.
EU referendum: Our chance to... 

VOTE ‘OUT’ THE TORIES 

EU rules that are of any benefit to ordinary people were adopted chiefly to even out the playing field for big business rather than from an intention to improve lives.

Jeremy Corbyn... and the GMB

Jeremy Corbyn and others on the left were wrong to succumb under pressure from Labour’s right wing to the argument that the EU is advantageous for workers and so advocated a vote to stay in. Many of the consequences of that mistake is that his referendum campaigning will be improving the chances of a victory for Cameron and the continuation of Tory austerity.

Also, the trade union leaders are mistaken in looking to provisions from a “social Europe” as a way to counter the anti-union and anti-worker attacks of a right-wing government like Cameron’s. A future UK government elected on the anti-austerity programme Corbyn stood on in the Labour leadership election would soon be confronted with the anti-working class character of the EU.

The GMB union sent out a press release declaring its support for remaining in the EU. Its grounds included that corporate exploitation “is completely unstoppable. Not by voting to leave the EU, but by demanding a return to [a] vision of a social Europe.”

The old saying ‘lies, damned lies, and statistics’, will likely be very apt during the next four months. One early disgrace is the way in which some anti-EU Tories are feigning concern for people hit by austerity. For instance, Gove, who as education secretary was detested by teachers for pushing ahead privatisation and attacks on their pay and conditions, said this week when making his anti-EU case: “Whoever is in government in London cannot support a steel plant through troubled times, cannot build the houses we need where they’re needed.”

The only way this kind of monstrous duplicity can be fully exposed and countered is through building an independent, working class based campaign against the capitalist EU and fighting for media coverage of it.

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Tower Hamlets to take anti-cuts fight into the council chamber

Tower Hamlets Socialist Party

Tower Hamlets Independent Group councillors will move an amendment to the east London borough’s cuts budget on 24 February.

This follows a second ‘people’s budget’ meeting where 50 people discussed how best to fight the cuts proposed by Labour mayor John Biggs.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) and Tower Hamlets Independent Group have been working together. We have invited residents, campaigners and council workers to say how the cuts will affect them, and what should be in a people’s budget for the borough.

There was determination to oppose these devastating cuts from everyone who spoke.

Hugo Pierre from Tower Hamlets TUSC explained that a detailed examination of the council’s financial position has identified £70 million reserves. These could be used, alongside borrowing powers, to avoid cuts outright.

This would give time to help organise a national movement, linking in with other councils, which could force the government to retreat. Councillors who oppose cuts could act as a beacon, giving confidence to anti-cuts councillors around the country.

In a rousing contribution, Councillor Shabbul Alam declared: “The youth is the future of our country. University bursaries are being cut. Very recently Tower Hamlets came top ten in the country for education.

“You want to put Tower Hamlets 20 to 30 years behind? If this was done by an Independent mayor, as God is my witness I would be standing right here and saying the same.”

Abhab Miah, secretary of the Stifford Centre that hosted the meeting, spoke about cuts to school crossing patrols. “If the schools have to provide the school crossing patrols [instead of the council], that will mean cuts in the schools.”

Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim and local resident Abutayer Chowdhury said the cuts could to community organisations and services for young people were so severe they could lead to increased anti-social behaviour.

Pete Dickenson from Tower Hamlets Socialist Party pointed to the success of the campaign of the Liverpool Council in the 1980s, which forced major concessions from the Thatcher government.

Councillor Oli Rahman, the leader of the Tower Hamlets Independent Group, concluded the meeting with a determined speech. He said plans to cut services for young people and the elderly have to be opposed.

“On Wednesday we will put an amendment to the budget. It says not to increase the council tax or cut the laundry service, or free home care for the elderly.”

A lobby of the budget meeting will present two anti-cuts petitions to the council, including TUSC’s call for a no-cuts budget: 24 February at 6pm, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, London E14 2BG.

Socialist Party public meeting: How Liverpool fought the cuts. 25 February at 7.30pm, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 8HG (nearest tube Bethnal Green)

Leeds: People’s budget campaign

Iain Dalton
Youth Fight for Jobs Yorkshire

Anti-cuts activists have established the Leeds People’s Budget Campaign to present a no-cuts amendment to next year’s council budget.

A lobby group Fight for Jobs and the local Community branch of general union Unite hosted the launch conference on 20 February. It brought together campaigners including those fighting fire service cuts, the bedroom tax, and cuts to English as a second or other language (Esol) classes.

In the council’s last statement of finances, Leeds’ usable reserves stood at over £390 million, an increase of £65 million in the last year. Why not use this to delay cuts and build a campaign?

An Esol campaigner pointed out their campaigning had stopped further funding cuts. Several council workers commented on their efforts to discuss no-cuts budgets in their union branch. One remarked that although the figures for reserves are printed in black and white in the council’s own documents, they were referred to as “fanciful” in branch discussions!

Undoubtedly, five years of council unions nationally failing to take a lead in fighting austerity has ground down activists throughout the union. Not responding to redundancies or attacks on pay and conditions is to “negate the whole purpose of a trade union”.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition has lobbied the council over establishing a not-for-profit letting agency to tackle rip-off landlords and estate agents. The council is now watering this down to what it calls an “ethical lettings agency” which would only cover some council homes as well as investment in transport and education. It was also a breath of fresh air to hear an MP speak against Trident and call for a clampdown on pro-nuke MPs such as Hilary Benn.

We questioned if Labour councillors could explore setting a no-cuts budget, or even look at starting to build council housing before 2020. The answer was a straight no. Hamilton repeated the falsehood that to do so is against the law, and that we can do nothing at all about it.

I thought I was going to hear about fighting austerity now. But just as it was before the last general election, we heard the same old argument of waiting until 2020.”

Labour needs a real fighting strategy, not just “wait for the elections”. It needs to stand up against the Tories, build up local anti-cuts groups, start refusing to implement the cuts and mobilise people behind a campaign to win the money back. This would exert real pressure on the Tories to concede extra funding.

I have been stuck with austerity, low wages and poor job prospects since I was 17. I don’t want to wait until I’m 27 just to be let down yet again.

Join the fightback! Join the Socialists!

Leeds Labour Party’s “Fighting Austerity, Investment Not Cuts” meeting on 18 February seemed quite positive. Until the question of ‘people’s budgets’ came up.

Over 50 residents and Labour activists attended the Chapel Allerton ward public event. Fabian Hamilton, the local MP, condemned what are apparently 60% cuts to Leeds City Council’s funding.

He spoke about building 250,000 council homes as well as investment in transport and education. It was also a breath of fresh air to hear an MP speak against Trident and call for a clampdown on pro-nuke MPs such as Hilary Benn.

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I thought I was going to hear about fighting austerity now. But just as it was before the last general election, we heard the same old argument of waiting until 2020. Labour needs a real fighting strategy, not just “wait for the elections”. It needs to stand up against the Tories, build up local anti-cuts groups, start refusing to implement the cuts and mobilise people behind a campaign to win the money back. This would exert real pressure on the Tories to concede extra funding.

I have been stuck with austerity, low wages and poor job prospects since I was 17. I don’t want to wait until I’m 27 just to be let down yet again.
Workers turned out in big numbers to picket and demonstrate on every day of the strike. In a sign of things to come, the company called out the police when the campaign blocked the entrance to the building and caused traffic problems. On this first day, the police simply asked that the protest stop, which it did.

On the second day, the protest turned up and thinned mass action. On the third day, the police turned up with several vehicles looking to make arrests, but no arrests had been planned for the third day.

Unite is now preparing for battles on a number of fronts with EDF. We are ready to make a forceful response and to defend the scheme. Unite aims to do so in the spirit of the original, 1980s battle.

The only force working against the scheme is the company, whose profits for United Utilities, a company with not what you'll get, and the risk is for any shortfalls. Up till last year the company was doing OK, now the board have had to plan for the third year.

The three year revaluation of the scheme is due this year. GMB is demanding that the company make further cuts of more than £50 million in its running costs. GMB steward Steve explained that ‘The difference is that under de-regulation the company is proposing to reduce costs’.

The big lesson is that self-planned, strategic strike action works. The union pulled out workers whose role was to make arrests, so the company is under pressure to complete or fail the cuts.

Workers are determined. They have been meeting outside the company’s Warrington headquarters. The pickets were searched by a band of company ‘security’ people who took the union’s picket signs.

GMB branch Sec Steve explained that the company had reserved its position on the issue to see if the situation changed. Unite has made a fresh offer which the company has rejected.

GMB says that if the situation remains unchanged it will make a fresh offer. If the company is not prepared to act on this, the union will call a series of one day strikes. The goal is to put pressure on the company to meet workers’ demands and to stop the cuts.

The difference is that under defined benefits you know what you’re going to get, and the company plays one game, but under defined contributions you know what you pay but you don’t get it, and the risk is on the employee.

GMB is carrying out a political campaign to highlight the bad practices of the company and to stand in solidarity with workers fighting against cuts.

Pensions strike by water workers in Warrington

Andy Ford
Warrington Socialist Party

United Utilities, a company with revenues of £4.5 billion and profits of £150 million in the City, but now claims it cannot afford decent pensions. The company paid a profits of £664.3 million in the united utilities, a company with a good record of paying dividends, a fact which amounts to just £1 an hour extra for further education students, and run courses for the GMB members, Oxford United, has been told that they face dis- Missed workers turned out in large numbers to picket and demonstrate on every day of the strike. In a sign of things to come, the company called out the police when the campaign blocked the entrance to the building and caused traffic problems. On this first day, the police simply asked that the protest stop, which it did.

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Unison AT A CROSSROADS

Neil Cambry

I

n the last election Unison's general secretary was styled as a working-class champion. The image was of an 'united front' united in the struggle against the Tories. The image was of the un_routes to a life of exclusion and poverty. Today the rhythm and tempo is very different. The rhythm is set by the market and the financial services. The tempo is set by the need to compete in an open and competitive market. The market and the financial services are the drivers of change in our society. They are the forces that are changing the way we live and work. They are the forces that are shaping the future of our country.

The election of the general secretary is a key moment in the union's history. It is a moment of decision and choice. It is a moment when we have to decide what kind of union we want to be. It is a moment when we have to decide what kind of leadership we want. It is a moment when we have to decide what kind of future we want for our members.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of power. It is a moment when we have the power to shape our own destiny. It is a moment when we can make a real difference. It is a moment when we can change the direction of the union.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of hope. It is a moment when we can hope for a better future. It is a moment when we can hope for a more equal society. It is a moment when we can hope for a more democratic union.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of action. It is a moment when we can take action to make a real difference. It is a moment when we can take action to shape the future of our country.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of change. It is a moment when we can change the direction of the union. It is a moment when we can change the direction of our society.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of opportunity. It is a moment when we can seize the opportunity to make a real difference. It is a moment when we can seize the opportunity to shape the future of our country.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of responsibility. It is a moment when we have the responsibility to make a real difference.

The election of the general secretary is a moment of power, hope, action, change, opportunity and responsibility. It is a moment when we can decide what kind of union we want to be and what kind of future we want for our members.
The Socialist InBox

Do you have something to say?

Send your news, views and criticism in not more than 150 words to Socialist Postbox, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD, or phone 020 8988 8771, email: editors@socialistparty.org.uk

Letters/Review

Tremendous. That is the only way to describe Gary Owen’s one-woman play “Iphigenia in Splott”, directed by Rachel O’Riordan and starring Sophie Melville as Effie.

Effie is a hoity. This young woman provocatively stereotypes life in the face in the desolation that has become South Wales. Closures of facilities, cuts to basic services, drink, drugs and isolation.

Once the heartland of engineering, mining and steel production, the Welsh working class had established a powerful trade union movement where community ties were steadfast. Now the bosses have created an industrial desert where all workers suffer.

Sophie captivates her audience with a powerful performance full of physical strength, movement and intense emotion. Any actor could speak those words of defiance, but Sophie grew up in Swansea and has lived these experiences in her own community. Her portrayal of Effie reveals the depth of her own feelings and experiences.

Effie is a desolate character, but she is not going to let that get her down. Then one night she meets the man of her dreams. Her life is turned around. She rejoices. Not that she is in love, seeing pink roses everywhere. Rather she says: “I am not alone” - a powerful sentiment. Horizons open up, only to be followed by acute disappointment - dumped and pregnant.

The final part of the play is a harrowing tragedy about the birth of her baby in an underfunded NHS with overworked professionals.

This spirited young performer even tweeted Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt inviting him to come see “what the NHS means to the majority”, Sophie not only hails from Swansea, but grew up in a family where socialist ideas were discussed. Her grandfather, Alec Thrares, is a long-standing organiser of the Socialist Party.

Effie, in final exasperation, muses: “It seems it’s always places like this and people like us who have to take it when the time for cutting comes.” But she goes on to defiantly pose the crucial question facing the whole working class today: “And I wonder just how long we are gonna have to take it… And I wonder what is gonna happen when we can’t take it anymore?”

Many critics, including the Socialist Party’s Kate Jones in an earlier review, have rightly interpreted this as a call to revolution. The audience jumped to its feet.

Let’s hope playwrights like Gary Owen will produce more plays for actors like Sophie Melville on current social themes. But perhaps also go further and write about how to change the whole rotten system. There would be a ready audience for this kind of theatre – not just in south Wales, but everywhere.

Theatre review: Iphigenia in Splott

One-woman tragedy’s fiery call for revolution

Linda Taaffe

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SOCIALIST PARTY CONFERENCES DISCUSS TUMULTUOUS EVENTS OF LAST YEAR AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT

Wales

The children of Grangetown in Cardiff set the scene for this year’s Socialist Party Wales conference on 21 February. Two days before, they occupied county hall against cuts to their play centre (see page 3), making it clear what kind of year 2016 will be!

The day started with a discussion introduced by Socialist Party general secretary Peter Taaffe on the tumultuous events around the world. Such events have shaken Wales in the last year too. This includes the terrible blow to the steelworks in Port Talbot, as well as more brutal cuts to public services carried out without a whiff of opposition by Labour’s current leadership.

First Minister Carwyn Jones has presided over a reduction of 2,000 NHS beds in the last five years for example. Jones is getting his excuses ready for Labour’s likely losses, implying the blame lies with Corbyn and the “infighting” his victory has caused.

Conference heard how Socialist Students is now represented in the majority of universities in Wales, with easily the biggest left campaigning presence on campus.

We’re getting a friendly reaction from supporters of Corbyn who have joined Labour.

Looking ahead, members discussed how this year’s Welsh Assembly elections will be the first test for Labour since Jeremy Corbyn was elected leader. Opponents of Labour’s current leadership still dominate the party in Wales, with catastrophic results.

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But we also heard how Socialist Party members have worked hard to build support among steelworkers and the wider community for the socialist nationalisation of steel to stop job losses.

North West

The Socialist Party North West regional conference on 20 February drew members from across the region to discuss perspectives and plans, including the re-election of Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) councillor Kevin Bennett in May.

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The Socialist Party North West regional conference on 20 February drew members from across the region to discuss perspectives and plans, including the re-election of Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) councillor Kevin Bennett in May.

The enthusiasm generated was shown in the fighting fund collection which raised over £420. Conference adopted a £4,000 target for our election fund appeal in the region, and promptly raised £730 in pledges for it.

Bob Williams, Socialist Party industrial organiser, introduced the session on Britain. This debated the prospects of political crises in the main parties around the elections and the EU referendum and workers’ struggles including the junior doctors’ dispute. All of this was discussed against the backdrop of a weakening world economy.

Jackie Grunsell, regional treasurer, introduced the session on finance. Subscriptions have increased by £800 in the last year, with plans to hit a £4,000 monthly income by December.

Fighting fund is regularly exceeding 200% of our national target and the region should hit its target for subscriptions to the Socialist by the end of 2016.

Jackie explained why we’re aiming for a £4,000 regional election fund - we have to secure the re-election of Kevin Bennett, fight two mayoral elections, and the North West has more council seats up for election than other regions.

In a session on the elections, Kevin Bennett explained how TUSC is fighting for re-election in Warrington with press work, stalls, local petitions, leafleting and canvassing. Meanwhile, Labour’s local establishment is in disarray with councillors publicly attacking each other.

In May’s elections, TUSC will be the only 100% anti-cuts force putting forward policies in line with the public who want re-nationalisation, higher wages and affordable housing. “It’s crucial we keep a strong TUSC presence” concluded Kevin.

John Neill explained some practical lessons from the general election campaigns by our sister party in Ireland. This set the stage for our final session, a report about the work of the CWI (the international organisation the Socialist Party is affiliated to).

“The situation is not simple, in Britain or internationally. But clear Marxist ideas and a determined attitude to fighting for socialism underpin our growth and organisation going forwards.”

Hugh Caffrey, North West Socialist Party secretary

Campaign to save Pent Valley continues

Kent County Council has let slip any veil of democratic accountability to the people of Cheriton, Kent. Its education committee supported the proposal by the director of education, Patrick Leeson, to close Pent Valley School, despite huge public opposition.

Parents and students, including many members of the Nepalese community in Cheriton filled a 49 seater coach to lobby Kent County councillors who are members of the education cabinet.

We are campaigning against the threat by Kent County Council to close our local authority run secondary school as reported in last week’s issue. Claire, who is one of the mums, prepared a brief presentation in opposition to the threat to close the school but despite an understanding that she would be allowed to speak briefly was refused permission by the chair of the committee!

A supporter of the campaign, despite repeated demands from the chair to shut up, said that the committee were discourteous and impolite in refusing to allow Claire speakers’ rights. He demanded the council use their reserves as a loan to keep our school open.

We believe that as part of the campaign there may be grounds for a legal challenge to the procedure. The campaign continues!

Eric Segal, East Kent Socialist Party

Socialist Party Fighting Fund

£ received £ target January-March 2016 Deadline 1 April 2016

Northern 362 500 100% 110% 100%
Southern 400 500 100% 100% 100%
South West 510 500 102% 100% 100%
South East 109 750 66% 120% 100%
Yorkshire 1,211 2,000 60% 100% 100%
West Midlands 1,111 2,100 53% 100% 100%
Wales 1,604 2,300 70% 100% 100%
Northern Ireland 9 10 100% 100% 100%
South East 109 750 66% 120% 100%
West Midlands 1,111 2,100 53% 100% 100%
Yorkshire 1,211 2,000 60% 100% 100%
Northeast 362 500 100% 110% 100%
North West 3,345 1,800 186% 100% 100%
England and Wales 69 3,050 2%
Gateshead: Reprieve for respite centre

Momentum – “TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE RIGHT”

The group’s structure excluding members of parties which stand against Labour. Such groups will still be allowed at meetings. Because Momentum is ap-
plicable council workers and ser-
sion takes being eliminated– the

Sadig Khan
A session on how to support right-wing London mayoral can-

Clearly not. Dozens of reports confirm

Join the London lobbies: call on councillors not to vote for cuts!

Wakefield: No fracking, no cuts

Wakefield and Pontefract Socialist Party members teamed up with Frack Free Wakefield Di-

In the County Council elections, 2016 for

The Labour-controlled county council has announced that it will

The Labour-controlled council has announced that it will
delay the planned opening of a new high school in the town of

Local News

Cumbria: cuts - the grim reaper

March 2016

“Kill the housing bill”

Cumbria has the highest council tax base in the country, according to

Cumbria cuts - the grim reaper

The campaign is continuing to call on local councils to support the

The Labour-controlled council has announced that it will
delay the planned opening of a new high school in the town of

The campaign is continuing to call on local councils to support the

Join the London lobbies: call on councillors not to vote for cuts!

Camden – 20 Forest

Hackney – 2 March

Tower Hamlets – 3 March

See www.socialistparty.org.uk for more lobby dates are added!

“Cuts killer” is a slogan raised in a rally this month against austerity in recent years. The slogan marks the 25th anniversary of

This was the only organised public opposition to the council budget cuts in Cumber-

In the city’s last-roundby

But there was opposition to these cuts - from Socialist Party and Union activists. The local

The council faced pressure from the council, the Labour council and the council's

Local News

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delay the planned opening of a new high school in the town of

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The Socialist Party fights for socialism – a democratic society run by and for the needs of all and not of a few. We also organise on a day-to-day campaigning for every possible improvement for working class people. The. The priority working class for us is the general public in the country and in the workplace, students and trade unions run by the Socialist Party.

What we stand for

PRIVILEGES and OPPORTUNITIES

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable and ending into the production of any form of nuclear energy.
- Socialism where the government, separately from the government, is the main source of income and in charge of producing goods.
- Public ownership of the energy industry, the major banks, the railways, the water systems, the public transport system, as well as post offices, and the distribution of goods.
- End police harassment.
- End all acts of violence against gender, sexuality, and all other forms of discrimination.
- End police harassment.
- No violence against any race, women, and all other forms of discrimination.
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The community-led campaign against the closure of the A&E at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (HRI) has mushroomed into a massive people's protest movement. At least ten local groups have been set up. The work is being coordinated by a steering committee of people who have mostly not been involved in campaigns before. Thousands of signatures have been collected. The roadshow meetings of thephony 14 week consultation will be mobbed by local people.

The demonstration in Huddersfield on 27 February will be the biggest protest in the town in the post-war period. Only five weeks ago the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) launched a consultation with the recommended option to downgrade HRI and to relocate its A&E to nearby Halifax. This would mean only one A&E department serving a diverse and scattered community of 750,000 people!

Fatalities
The proposal will result in a huge increase of fatalities. Those travelling to the A&E would have to cross the busiest Northern motorway, the M62, which is constantly clogged with traffic.

The CCG has had to admit that it does not have the funds to keep both A&E departments open. It has chosen to prioritise the Halifax hospital because of its huge and escalating PFI (Private Finance Initiative) debt.

The CCG cannot extricate itself from this crippling contract - which will end up costing £774 million, despite the fact that the cost of building the hospital was £64 million! The CCG will sacrifice lives to pay off an immoral and unjustified debt to private companies.

The Socialist Party locally has thrown all its weight and resources behind the campaign. As well as helping to organise key events, we are also taking responsibility for mobilising youth anger at the proposal by organising activities at the university and colleges. Our members on the steering committee continue to play a crucial role in directing the work of the campaign.

We continue to call for:
- No closure of either A&E department
- Cancel the PFI debt
- A publicly owned and fully funded NHS at every level
- Coordinated industrial action to halt cuts and privatisation in the NHS

Join the demonstration:
11.30am, 27 February, St Georges Square