

## ➔ WHAT IS THE TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION?

TUSC was set-up in 2010 to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to stand candidates against the pro-austerity establishment parties.

Under Britain's election laws if candidates are not endorsed by a registered political party they can only appear on the ballot paper as an 'Independent'. That doesn't make it easy for trade unionists or local anti-cuts campaigners to distinguish themselves as standing for something different to the mainstream. But linking up with others under the TUSC umbrella does.

Since 2010 nearly a third of a million votes have been cast for TUSC and over 1,800 candidates have stood in elections as part of TUSC. A few have won council seats – Southampton 'rebel councillors' Keith Morrell and Don Thomas have both been re-elected with big majorities. The TUSC candidate for Liverpool mayor polled 4,792 votes, ahead of the Tories and double the UKIP vote.

Local community groups, trade unionists and anti-cuts candidates who want to stand under the TUSC banner have autonomy to run their own campaigns. The only provision is that candidates are expected to endorse the TUSC core policy platforms for the general election and local council elections.

TUSC is a coalition with a national steering committee which includes leading trade unionists from the RMT transport workers' union, the PCS civil servants' union, the National Union of Teachers, the Fire Brigades Union, and the Prison Officers Association (see below). The RMT has been officially represented since its 2012 annual general meeting agreed that the union would become a constituent part of TUSC. The Socialist Party and the Socialist Workers Party also have committee places, and non-aligned individuals are represented through the Independent Socialist Network. Local groups are encouraged to be established on a similar basis, open to organisations and individuals who want to fight back.

This coalition structure is not a finished arrangement and discussions continue to take place on the best way to organise TUSC as it develops in the future. Following the general election the TUSC steering committee is encouraging the development of as many new local TUSC groups as possible. By providing a means for trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to work together in an electoral coalition, TUSC is already playing an important part in building an alternative to the pro-market, pro-cuts establishment parties.

➔ To contact TUSC or one of its constituent organisations check out the relevant website:

**TUSC** [www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk)

**RMT** [www.rmt.org.uk](http://www.rmt.org.uk)

**Socialist Party**  
[www.socialistparty.org.uk](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk)

**Socialist Workers Party**  
[www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk)

**TUSC Independent Socialist Network**  
[independentsocialistnetwork.org](http://independentsocialistnetwork.org)

# TUSC AGAINST CUTS

 @TUSCOALITION

 TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION

## ➔ THE TUSC NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

**TUSC national steering committee (May 2015):**

Representatives from the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers' union (RMT), the Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, and the TUSC Independent Socialist Network.

Plus, in a personal capacity: **Steve Gillan**, POA General Secretary; **Chris Baugh**, PCS Assistant General Secretary; **Joe Simpson**, POA Assistant General Secretary; **John McNally**, PCS Vice-President; **Ian Leahair**, FBU National Executive; **Nina Franklin**, ex-NUT President; **Martin Powell-Davies**, NUT National Executive; **Anne Lemon**, NUT National Executive; **Brian Caton**, ex-POA General Secretary; **Cllr Keith Morrell** (Southampton); **Nick Wrack**.

Registered officers: Chairperson, **Dave Nollist**; National Nominating Officer, **Clive Heemskerck**

# JOIN WITH THE TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION

## HELP US BUILD AN ELECTION ALTERNATIVE TO AUSTERITY

TRADE UNIONIST AND  
SOCIALIST COALITION

TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION [WWW.TUSC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TUSC.ORG.UK)  
TUSC, 17 COLEBERT HOUSE, COLEBERT AVENUE, LONDON E1 4JP

# TUSC AGAINST CUTS

**W**hen the Tory government was elected the stock markets soared and the city traders cracked open the champagne. They were celebrating the election of a government which will ruthlessly pursue the interests of the 1%. The rest of us face vicious increased austerity.

A mass movement against austerity and in defence of trade union rights is urgently needed. That movement also needs a political voice. Labour lost the election because it is not against austerity, but instead just called for austerity-lite. At local level Labour councils have obediently carried through government cuts, as have councillors from all the other parties – including the Greens and UKIP, as well as the Tories and Liberal Democrats.

That's why the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) was set up in 2010, co-founded by the late Bob Crow, general secretary of the

RMT transport workers' union. Its purpose is to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to come together on a common platform to challenge the pro-austerity unity of the establishment parties at the ballot box.

In the 2015 elections TUSC stood 135 parliamentary and over 600 council candidates. Despite an almost complete media boycott we received over 118,000 votes for our 100% anti-austerity stance. This was the biggest left-of-Labour working class election challenge since the end of world war two, but it was only the beginning.

We aim to build on it in the 2016 local, regional and Scottish and Welsh elections. Are you prepared to be a candidate next time? Can you help build support in your trade union or your local community for candidates who will fight back?

Inside are some of the key policies TUSC fought the general election on, plus our ten-point core policy platform for local elections, and a brief introduction to TUSC. Why not join us? If we don't fight to change things, nothing will change.



## ➔ WHAT TUSC STANDS FOR?

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) argues that working class people should not pay for a crisis that we did not cause. Our coalition, of trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists, is united on the need for mass resistance to the ruling class offensive, and for an alternative programme of left-wing policies to help inspire and direct such resistance:

### PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, NOT PRIVATE PROFIT

- Stop all privatisation, including the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). Bring privatised public services, industries and utilities back into public ownership under democratic control, with compensation only on the basis of proven need.
- No to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and all secret austerity treaties.

### NO CUTS - FOR QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

- Re-nationalise all rail, bus and ferry services to build an integrated, low-pollution public transport system. Take Royal Mail back into public ownership to guarantee our postal services. Bring prisons, probation, and all other parts of the justice system back into the public sector.
- For a high-quality, free National Health Service under democratic public ownership and control.
- Stop council estate sell-offs and build high-standard, eco-friendly, affordable council housing.
- No to academies and 'free schools'. Good, free education for all, under democratic local authority control; student grants not fees.

### JOBS, NOT HANDOUTS TO THE BANKERS AND BILLIONAIRES

- Bring banks and finance institutions into genuine public ownership under democratic control, instead of giving huge handouts to the very capitalists who caused the crisis.
- Tax the rich. For progressive tax on rich corporations and individuals and an end to tax avoidance.
- For massive investment in environmental projects.

### EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS

- Repeal the anti-trade union laws, reverse attacks on facility time and the right to collect subs by check-off for trade unions, particularly in the public-sector.
- Support the TUC's demand to increase the minimum wage to £10 an hour, and for it then to rise in line with inflation or wages, whichever is higher.
- Scrap zero hour contracts. Guaranteed hours and full employment rights for all. Cut the working week to 35 hours with no loss of pay.
- Invest to create and protect jobs, including for young people.
- Solidarity with workers taking action to defend jobs, conditions, pensions, public services and trade unions. Reinstate full trade union rights to prison officers.

### PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT - STOP GLOBAL WARMING

- Deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions - otherwise climate change, caused by capitalism, will destroy us.
- Invest in publicly-owned and controlled renewable energy. Oppose fracking.
- Move to sustainable, low-pollution industry and farming - stop the pollution that is destroying our environment. No to profit-driven GM technology.
- Produce for need, not profit, and design goods for reuse and recycling.

### DECENT PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

- Abolish the bedroom tax.
- Reverse cuts to benefits; for living benefits; end child poverty. Scrap benefit sanctions.
- Restore the pre-Thatcher real value of pensions. Reverse the increases imposed on the state retirement age, creating jobs for younger people.

### STOP THE ATTACKS ON DISABLED PEOPLE

- Promote inclusive policies to enable disabled people to participate in, and have equal access to, education, employment, housing, transport and welfare provision.
- Support measures to ensure disabled people receive a level of income according to needs. Equal pay for equal work.

➔ **Is the money there?**  
**The annual Sunday Times 'Rich List' showed that the combined wealth of Britain's richest 1,000 individuals rose by £28 billion to reach £547 billion.**

### DEMOCRACY, DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE

- Welcome diversity and oppose racism, fascism and discrimination. Defend the right to asylum, repeal the 2014 Immigration Act and all racist immigration controls.
- Ensure women have genuinely equal rights and pay.
- Full equality for LGBT people.
- Defend our liberties and make police and security democratically accountable.
- For the right to vote at 16.

### SOLIDARITY NOT WAR

- No to imperialist wars and occupations!
- Justice for the Palestinians, lift the siege of Gaza, recognise the state of Palestine.
- No more spending on a new generation of nuclear weapons, huge aircraft carriers or irrelevant eurofighters - convert arms spending into socially useful products and services.
- An independent foreign policy, based on international solidarity - no more being a US poodle, no moves towards a capitalist, militarist United States of Europe. No to austerity and anti-working class policies, whether from the EU or Britain.

### SOCIALISM

- For a democratic socialist society run in the interests of people not millionaires. For 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.

## ➔ WE NEED COUNCILLORS WHO WILL REFUSE TO IMPLEMENT THE CUTS!

Under the last government local council services suffered the biggest cuts since the second world war. Now the Tories will squeeze them even harder. If local councils continue to loyally implement government cuts it will mean the complete destruction of local services. Councils have to fight or they will be destroyed!

That is why it is so important to have local councillors who will refuse to vote for cuts in the council chamber. And that is why TUSC is preparing now for the May 2016 council elections. We are appealing to trade union members, anti-cuts campaigners, young people - everyone in fact who opposes the austerity agenda - to come forward as council candidates.

It is not true that councils have 'no option' but to pass on government cuts. If just a handful of councils used the powers they have to refuse to implement cuts the Tory government could be made to back down.

Individual councillors have a choice. The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition has a policy platform for local council elections (below) which could make a difference. Even one councillor taking a stand, if they used their position in the council chamber to appeal to those outside, could give confidence to trade unionists and community campaigners to fight.

### ➔ ALL TUSC COUNCILLORS WILL:

- Oppose all cuts to council jobs, services, pay and conditions. We reject the claim that 'some cuts' are necessary to our services or that the national debt is a reason for austerity.
- Refuse to implement the Bedroom Tax now. Councils should write off all bedroom tax-related arrears, withdraw all court proceedings and eviction orders where the bedroom tax has been a factor, and call on Housing Associations to do the same.
- Support all workers' struggles against the cuts, privatisation and government policies making ordinary people pay for the crisis caused by the bankers and the bosses. Defend the national collective bargaining arrangements for council workers.
- Reject increases in council tax, rent and service charges to compensate for government cuts.
- Vote against the privatisation of council jobs and services, or the transfer of council services to 'social enterprises' or 'arms-length' management organisations, which are first steps to privatisation.
- Oppose racism and fascism and stand up for equality for all.

- Campaign for the introduction of a Living Wage above the minimum wage, including for council employees and those working for council contractors.
- Use all the legal powers available to councils to oppose both the cuts and government policies which centrally impose the transfer of public services to private bodies. This includes using councils' powers to refer local NHS decisions, initiate referenda and organise public commissions and consultations in campaigns to defend public services.
- Vote for councils to refuse to implement the cuts. We will support councils which in the first instance use their reserves and prudential borrowing powers to avoid making cuts. But we argue that the best way to mobilise the mass campaign that is necessary to defeat the dismantling of council services is to set a budget that meets the needs of the local community and demands that government funding makes up the shortfall.
- Support action against climate change and for a future where sustainability comes before profit.

This platform is the basis on which any prospective council candidate can stand under the TUSC name in local council elections. We encourage every trade unionist, anti-cuts campaigner, community activist and all those who want to see an alternative to the establishment parties, to become a TUSC candidate.

For an application form go to <http://www.tusc.org.uk/candidate>

➔ **Is the money there?**  
**The 'wars of choice' in Afghanistan and Iraq cost Britain £30.2 billion, according to the Royal National Services Institute - more than the cut in government funding of local council services since 2010.**