



TUSC conference

**Saturday 10th February, 11am-4-30pm,
Student Central, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY**

Agenda

11am to 1-30pm:

Building support for Jeremy Corbyn's anti-cuts policies in the 2018 local elections

Platform speakers from the TUSC constituent organisations: **Sean Hoyle** (RMT President) and **Paul Reilly** (RMT national executive), and **Hannah Sell** (Socialist Party); and the TUSC Individual Members' steering committee representative **Roger Charles**

Platform speakers will have fifteen minutes for their opening contributions, speakers from the floor three minutes. The motions from the Socialist Party and Rugby TUSC (see page three) will be debated in this session, with an indicative vote at the end.

1-30pm to 2-30pm: Lunch break

During the break the main hall will be used for a meeting open to all Individual Member credential holders to discuss organising individual members within TUSC and nominate a further representative onto the steering committee.

2-30pm to 4-30pm:

TUSC and the Brexit negotiations

A TUSC discussion forum with platform speakers from the RMT, **Clare Laker-Mansfield** on behalf of the Socialist Party, and TUSC Individual Members' steering committee representative **Pete McLaren**.

Platform speakers will again have fifteen minutes for their opening contributions, speakers from the floor three minutes.

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Conference information

Speakers' slips

There will be time for speakers from the floor (of three minute contributions) in every session, although the agenda is very tight. So there will be a speakers' slip system, with slips available on the registration stall, to try and ensure the most balanced possible debate.

Canteen & cafes

The Student Central bars and canteen are unfortunately closed today but there are a number of cafes and drinks outlets in the vicinity.

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Motion for TUSC conference from the Socialist Party

TUSC and the May local elections

This conference believes that the 2018 local elections will present big opportunities for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) to advance its founding goal of building working class socialist political representation, but only if a careful approach is adopted that takes into account the surge in support for Jeremy Corbyn expressed in the 2017 general election.

TUSC has already re-calibrated its electoral activity following Jeremy Corbyn's initial leadership election victory over Labour's right-wing in September 2015. Our coalition, whose components helped facilitate Jeremy's leadership challenge, recognised from the outset that if his anti-austerity message was developed into a clear socialist programme and Labour's structures democratised, the Labour Party itself could become the mass left-wing alternative that is needed to the capitalist policies of public sector cuts, privatisation, anti-union restrictions, militarism and environmental degradation.

Consequently TUSC candidacies in the 2016 and 2017 local elections were only approved where they strengthened the battle against the right wing in the Labour Party and campaigns against local austerity policies. In the 2017 general election, in which the working class had an opportunity to change the government and put Jeremy Corbyn into Number Ten, TUSC did not stand any candidates, from the position of being the sixth-biggest party on the ballot paper in 2015.

At the same time TUSC has also recognised the continued presence within the Labour Party of defenders of capitalism who oppose socialist policies and will do everything they can to prevent Labour's transformation. They still dominate the Parliamentary Labour Party and much of the formal structures of the party. They also predominate in local council Labour groups where, in the 124 Labour-controlled councils across Britain, they carry out the Tory government's austerity agenda.

This year's 2018-2019 council budgets will be the third set of cuts budgets made by Labour-led councils since Jeremy Corbyn's election as leader. This situation is even more indefensible after the general election outcome of a massively weakened Tory government. A defiant stand by even a handful of councils of using council reserves and borrowing powers to refuse to make the cuts, as campaigned for by TUSC, could be the catalyst to bring down the Tories. Refusing to take such a stand, on the other hand, could extend the life of the Tory government and perpetuate the distress caused by savagely reduced local public services.

To allow the Blairites to go unchallenged generally is to allow them to build their authority, which they will then use in the future to sabotage anti-capitalist policies under a Jeremy Corbyn-led government. To allow them to go unchallenged in local councils in particular allows them additionally to undermine the possibility of winning a Corbyn government, by creating a vacuum for other forces to fill (including UKIP still) and re-enforcing the scepticism of many working class voters which saw rising abstentionism over the New Labour years, that 'politicians are all the same'.

Conference therefore calls on the steering committee to continue with the broad electoral approach adopted since September 2015 for this year's May elections. That means encouraging TUSC candidates to come forward but ensuring that no candidates are authorised to stand against consistent public supporters of Jeremy Corbyn and his anti-austerity policies or without local TUSC groups seeking a dialogue with sitting Labour councillors on the critical issue of their preparedness to resist cuts to local council jobs and services.

Motion from Rugby TUSC to the 2018 conference

This conference re-affirms the support that the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition has given to Jeremy Corbyn against Labour's Blairite right-wing.

Conference calls on the Steering Committee to continue with the approach adopted at the 2017 conference for the 2018 council elections, noting that TUSC candidates are only being considered following attempts at dialogue with the local Labour group and/or sitting Labour councillor/prospective candidate on the critical issue of their preparedness to resist cuts to local council jobs and services.

Conference calls on the Steering Committee to ensure that, for whichever elections candidate applications are received, TUSC's electoral interventions are part of a serious campaign against cuts to local public services and will strengthen the battle against the right wing in the Labour Party and the trade unions.

Other motions received

This conference supports the Shrewsbury Pickets' Campaign for Truth and Justice, to expose the government conspiracy to interfere with the judicial system in order to make an example of trade union activists and to have the convictions of all those jailed quashed and declared innocent of all charges.

Submitted by **Merseyside TUSC**