

# TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION

**BANKER'S GREED  
OR  
PEOPLE'S NEEDS  
Cut Bonuses  
Not Benefits**

## LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCH 2014



**TUSC  
AGAINST  
CUTS**

BACK THE **TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION** IN THE 22 MAY LOCAL ELECTIONS

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[WWW.TUSC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TUSC.ORG.UK)

# WHAT IS THE TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION

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.

It was co-founded by Bob Crow, the late general secretary of the RMT transport union, along with other prominent trade unionists and socialist organisations. TUSC is a coalition with a national steering committee which includes leading trade unionists from the RMT, the PCS civil servants union, the National Union of Teachers, the Fire Brigade Union and the Prison Officers Association.

The RMT's annual general meeting in 2012 agreed to officially support TUSC and have representation on the steering committee.



Councillors Keith Morrell and Don Thomas from Southampton were suspended from the Labour Party for voting against the Labour budget in the council chamber. They proposed an alternative, 'no-cuts' budget.

After their suspension, these councillors became TUSC supporters and are represented on the steering committee. This year, Keith Morrell is up for re-election.

Since 2010 hundreds of candidates have stood under the TUSC umbrella. A few have won council seats. TUSC candidates' average vote in the 2012 local elections was 6.2%, despite a media blackout. TUSC stood 120 candidates in the 2013 local elections. Over 100,000 people have voted for TUSC candidates since it was formed.

## TUSC STEERING COMMITTEE:



● **DAVE NELLIST** (chair, pictured)  
● **CLIVE HEEMSKERK** (national election agent)  
● **PETER PINKNEY** (RMT national president)

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

● Plus, sitting in a personal capacity:

**BOB CROW, CO-FOUNDER AND TUSC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER UNTIL HIS SAD DEATH THIS YEAR**

● **STEVE GILLAN** (POA general secretary)  
● **JOE SIMPSON** (POA assistant general secretary)  
● **CHRIS BAUGH** (PCS Assistant General Secretary)  
● **JOHN MCINALLY** (PCS vice-president)  
● **IAN LEAHAIR** (FBU national executive)  
● **NINA FRANKLIN** (ex-NUT president)  
● **BRIAN CATON** (ex-POA general secretary)  
● **CLLR MICHAEL LAVALETTE** (Preston)  
● **CLLR KEITH MORRELL, CLLR DON THOMAS** (Southampton)  
● **NICK WRACK**



## ELECTORAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

● **TONY MULHEARN**, TUSC candidate for Liverpool mayor in 2012, polled **4,792 VOTES**. He beat the Tories and got double the UKIP vote.

● **MARY JACKSON**, TUSC candidate for Doncaster Mayor in 2013, polled **1,916 VOTES**, beating the Liberal Democrats and coming narrowly behind the Tories. (pictured left)

● In the 2013 local elections, TUSC received **9.4%** in Bolsover North (Derbyshire) and **9.1%** in the Hillfields ward in Bristol.

● **JOE ROBINSON** was elected to Maltby town council with **60%** of the vote (pictured left)



# 560 CANDIDATES: THE BIGGEST LEFT OF LABOUR CHALLENGE IN 60 YEARS

This year TUSC has 560 candidates in the local elections and 3 candidates for directly elected mayor positions in London.

This is the biggest trade unionist and socialist based electoral challenge since the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

It is the same year that the Labour Party has moved further to water-down the voice of the trade unions within its structures with the acceptance of the Collins' Review.

The following TUSC candidates available for interview:



**COUNCILLOR KEITH MORRELL COXFORD, SOUTHAMPTON**

Councillors Keith Morrell and Don Thomas from Southampton were suspended from the Labour Party for voting against the Labour budget in the council chamber. They proposed an alternative, 'no-cuts' budget. After their suspension, these councillors became TUSC supporters and are represented on the steering committee. This year, Keith Morrell is up for re-election.

**JOE SIMPSON ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY, PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (POA) PONDERS END, ENFIELD**



He says "The reason why I am standing is to give the men and women who live and work in Ponders End a voice within local government. Across the country,

councils have carried out the cuts required by Government. This has led to a cut back in local services and amenities within the different communities in and around Enfield. The Labour Party have been complicit in this whilst trying to retain the image of the Party for the Working Class, by their actions they have demonstrated they no longer have the peoples interest at heart locally. TUSC is a Party that will fight the cuts to local services, amenities and vital emergency services which local people rely on."



**GREG BEAUMONT, ROB GREEN CARE UK STRIKERS EDENTHORPE KIRK SANDALL & BARNBY DUN AND TOWN MOOR, DONCASTER**

Care workers in Doncaster have taken 20 days of strike action against a 35% pay cut. TUSC recently lobbied Ed Miliband's surgery in Doncaster to demand his support for the strike and held solidarity protests around the country. Two Care UK strikers are standing as TUSC candidates.



**GLENROY WATSON CHAIR, FINSBURY PARK RMT BRANCH; DAREN IRELAND NORTH WEST RMT REGIONAL ORGANISER; JOHN REID, LONDON UNDERGROUND RMT REGIONAL SECRETARY CHAPEL END, WALTHAM FOREST; PRINCES PARK, LIVERPOOL; GOSPEL OAK, CAMDEN**

The RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport union) has 80,000 members and is officially represented on the TUSC steering committee. There are 53 RMT members standing as TUSC candidates around the country, many are London Underground workers.



**HELEN PATTISON, YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS ACTIVIST EAST HAM CENTRAL, NEWHAM**

Helen is an activist in campaigning against zero-hours contracts in the

group Youth Fight for Jobs. She says "I am standing because Robin Wales, the Newham mayor only cares about filling his own back pocket, not protecting the working people from drowning in rising rents, low pay or those working in his council on zero-hours contracts."



**CORRINA SMITH DECKHAM, GATESHEAD** Corrina says "I've chosen to represent TUSC because they are willing to tackle the greed and inefficiency caused by privatisation. Initially I had seen Nigel Farage as an alternative to the hypocrisy of the political class. However, I then realised that Ukip is just as corrupt and hypocritical as the three main parties. I truly believe TUSC is a real alternative to the shameful and deceitful career politicians who are driven solely by greed."



# 560 CANDIDATES: THE BIGGEST LEFT OF LABOUR CHALLENGE IN 60 YEARS



**HUGO PIERRE**  
MAYORAL CANDIDATE  
TOWER HAMLETS

Hugo was born and brought up in the East End. He is a trade union rep at work who fights the cuts on a daily basis and has organised successful campaigns to fight closures and take workers out of poverty pay. He is a socialist who organised mass non-payment of the Poll Tax in the borough, which led to its defeat, a mass youth campaign to defeat the BNP on the streets of Bethnal Green and helped young people organise student strikes against the War in Iraq. He has campaigned against the benefit cuts, particularly the Bedroom Tax and pledged to help fight evictions.



**KAREN FLETCHER**  
ANTI-BEDROOM TAX  
CAMPAIGNER  
ROCKINGHAM,  
BARNSELY

Karen has been playing a leading role in the anti-

bedroom tax campaign in Barnsley. TUSC stands for the abolition of the bedroom tax.

**TIM ROEDEL**  
SECRETARY, LONDON  
NORTH EAST AREA, FIRE  
BRIGADE UNION (FBU)  
GROVE GREEN,  
WALTHAM FOREST



Tim is the Fire Brigades Union Waltham Forest Borough Secretary and has worked at Leytonstone Fire Station for the last fourteen years. Waltham Forest has lost 3 fire engines from the service due to cuts. Nationally, there is an expected 30% cut in provision. Tim is proud to be standing with other trade unionists and socialists campaigning against cuts, particularly those working in the local hospital Whipps Cross.

**ISABEL COUNIHAN-SANCHEZ**  
HOUSING CAMPAIGNER  
KILBURN, BRENT



Isabel Counihan-Sanchez is a mother of five living in Brent. She has been fighting attempts to force her family out of Brent since she was made homeless in April 2012 when their benefits were dramatically cut. Isabel launched the "Housing 4 All" campaign, which calls for the council to adopt a "no evictions due to benefit cuts policy, more council housing at affordable rents and rent controls" among other measures to tackle the housing. All of this has led Isabel to the conclusion that she needs to stand as a TUSC candidate against the current council and its ongoing implementation of government cuts.



**APRIL ASHLEY**  
NEC MEMBER,  
UNISON  
COLLIERS  
WOOD, MERTON

April is a local government worker and on the national executive of Unison (standing in a personal capacity).



**JASON TURVEY**  
NEC MEMBER, TSSA  
SPITALFIELDS &  
BANGLATOWN, TOWER  
HAMLETS

Jason has worked for London Underground since 1989, has been a member of a trade union all his working life and has been a trade union representative since 1995. He is currently a member of the national executive of Transport Salaried Staffs Association. He says, "I decided to become part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition because, like many other people, I have become fed up with the major parties and their agenda of austerity."

As a former Labour Party member, I am appalled that Labour have abandoned working people but choose not to abandon austerity. I believe that TUSC are a real alternative to the major parties and their agenda of austerity."



**JUDY GRIFFITHS**  
SECRETARY,  
COVENTRY CWU  
(COMMUNICATION  
WORKERS' UNION)  
CHEYLESMORE,  
COVENTRY

Judy is branch secretary in the CWU representing members in Telecoms and Postal industry. She is standing to give workers an alternative to all the main parties who stand for the same policies of attacking workers' rights.



# WHAT WE STAND FOR: THE LOCAL ELECTION POLICY PLATFORM COUNCILLORS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

## ...BUT ONLY IF THEY ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT

The Con-Dems' systematic dismantling of the welfare state has put the very existence of local council services at risk.

The Labour leader of Birmingham council, Britain's biggest local authority, has spoken of the 'end of local government'.

Even the Tory chair of the Local Government Association has hypocritically warned that the funding squeeze on councils is 'unsustainable'.

But it is not true that councils can do nothing but accept the government's attacks. They still control billions of pounds of public services and have powers they could use to resist.

Councillors have a choice. They can make a

difference and take steps to improve the lives of millions of people - but only if they are prepared to fight.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) has agreed a policy platform, outlined below, to contest local council elections in 2014 which, if adopted by just a handful of councils, could make a difference.

Even one councillor in each local authority arguing for the policies we outline, 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.

This platform is the basis on which any prospective council candidate who wishes to 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.

The local election platform is a supplement to the core policy statement that TUSC candidates endorsed when they stood in the general election in May 2010, which still stands as the national policy position of the TUSC coalition.

### 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. 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 the government's policy of 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.

- 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.

- Campaign for the introduction of a Living Wage above the minimum wage, including for council employees and those working for council contractors.

- 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 the government makes up the shortfall.

- Support action against climate change and for a future where sustainability comes before profit.



# SOME REGIONAL PRESS CUTTINGS

The Salford Star spoke of TUSC “mounting the biggest left challenge to Labour dominance, fielding candidates in nine of the 20 wards up for grabs”. It also made the significant point that the Liberal Democrats, “once seen as the main opposition party in Salford”, were fielding just two candidates this time.

There was some decent coverage for TUSC in the Eastern region with the Peterborough Telegraph speaking of a “colourful battle”, mentioning the TUSC challenge in six seats and highlighting the “well-known health care campaigner Mary Cooke representing the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition”.

The Watford Observer headlined its piece on the local elections “Ukip and the Trade Unionists and Socialists Against Cuts party beef up their presence”, referring to TUSC standing in half of the 12 wards in the borough.

In Yorkshire the Sheffield Telegraph wrote about Labour coming under pressure from Ukip, which is contesting all bar two of the wards in the city. But it continued by saying that: “Labour’s support could also be hit by a new left-wing party, the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, which is fighting 21 wards, focusing on opposition to the Con-Dem austerity agenda”.

The Doncaster Free Press added: “the Trade Unionists and Socialists Against Cuts (TUSC), is currently supporting striking Care UK workers who are fighting against 35% pay cuts, have eleven candidates”.

TUSC’s support for the Care UK workers was the main subject of a story in the Thornton and District Gazette, quoting TUSC candidate Jason Fawley, health worker, Steve Williams.

# WHAT COUNCILS COULD DO IN NEXT MONTH’S BUDGET-SETTING MEETING

## POLICIES COUNCILS COULD IMPLEMENT TOMORROW...

In the next month or so local councils will be deciding their budgets for 2014-2015, the last full financial year before the general election.

There is no dispute that councils face a dire financial situation. Even the Tory chair of the Local Government Association, Sir Merrick Cockell, has warned that the current funding levels for local councils “will not see us through for very much longer”. Such complaints from a Tory politician are hypocritical but they reflect the real crisis facing local council services.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) national steering committee discussed at its January meeting what councils could actually do to meet this crisis.

TUSC believes as its starting point that councils should not meekly accept the cuts to local authority funding made by the Con-Dem government. In the first instance councils have the means to avoid making cuts in their 2014-15 budgets by using their reserves and borrowing powers. This would buy them time to build a campaign to force the government – either this one or the next – to properly fund local government. This stance is one of the core policies of TUSC, which will be supported by all our candidates in the May local elections (see <http://www.tusc.org.uk/policy.php>).

But we also believe that councils should use the powers that they have to implement – here and now – policies that would positively improve the position of millions of people struggling to survive in ‘austerity Britain’. That would be the way to turn back the austerity offensive and mobilise support for a campaign for more resources for public services.

What councils can do

Listed below are just some of the policies that councils have the legal powers to implement now. Now – not after a general election, or after new legislation is passed, but immediately, today. And that’s proven by the fact that at least one council somewhere in Britain has implemented at least one of the policies below in some form in the recent

period. It’s that which makes the list unique.

But the question is: why couldn’t councils implement all of the policies below? And especially the hundred or so Labour-controlled councils? Wouldn’t implementing policies which actually positively impact on peoples’ lives give a clear example of what difference councils can make – and provide compelling reasons for people to support councillors who were prepared to take a stand in favour of proper funding for local services?

It’s not the case that ‘the money isn’t there’ for decent local services. Government funding of local councils is being cut by £7.6bn between 2011 and 2015 (with a further £2.1bn cut planned for 2015-16). Yet Britain’s top companies have an estimated cash pile of £750bn accumulated profits which they are refusing to invest. Meanwhile the number of billionaires in Britain rose from 77 in 2012 to 88 last year. The question is not ‘is the money there?’ but how can a campaign be won for the money to defend and improve public services.

TUSC has organised a conference on Saturday 1st February to prepare for what we aim will be the biggest left-of-Labour trade unionist and socialist challenge in local council elections for generations (see <http://www.tusc.org.uk/16879/19-12-2013/come-to-the-tusc-2014-local-elections-conference-on-february-1st>)

TUSC will fight these elections on a policy of opposition to all cuts to present council services. But we will also highlight what more councils could do. And that councillors can make a difference – if they are prepared to fight.

- Restore full council tax benefits, to be funded from council reserves not council tax rises, and campaign for government to reimburse councils that do so.

- Bring in free school meals for every primary school pupil.

- Introduce local replacements for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 16-18 year-olds staying on in education.

- Reinstate childcare provision in Sure Start centres where this has been cut and re-open the 550 centres closed since 2010.

- Support parents and teachers who oppose the Con-Dems’ enforced academisation of schools by using councils’ powers to refuse to issue ‘warning notices’ against schools that are working to improve their performance.

- Use councils’ powers to compulsorily register private landlords and set-up council-run lettings agencies, as the means to tackle repair standards, high rents, over-occupancy, extortionate letting fees etc for private rented homes.

- Build council homes now. By using councils’ borrowing powers for capital spending to build council homes, while campaigning for the government to divert its subsidy for private developers to finance a mass programme of public housing.

- Implement the UNISON trade union’s ethical care charter to end ‘15-minute maximum’ visiting slots, zero-hour contracts, and unpaid travel time for home care workers.

- Introduce the Living Wage as the minimum wage for council employees and those working for council contractors.

- Use councils’ powers to exclude firms that have participated in blacklisting from tendering for public contracts.



## CONTACT US



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