



The TUSC 2025 conference

Sunday 2nd February, 11am-1-30pm, on Zoom

Fighting for a new party under the Starmer government. And what role for TUSC?

Agenda

10-45am: Zoom waiting room opens

Screen-sharing to be disabled and also chat, except through the host.

11am to 12pm: Conference opening and platform speakers

Platform speakers from the component parts of the TUSC steering committee – the Socialist Party, Socialist Students, System Change and the Individual Members' section, and trade union executive members – and a guest speaker from the Collective.

Dave Semple, PCS Vice President (personal capacity)

Hannah Sell Socialist Party general secretary

Suzanne Muna Unite NEC member (personal capacity)

Andrew Jordan The Collective secretariat group

Tom Allen TUSC Individual Members' section

Tom Porter-Brown Socialist Students

12pm to 1-00pm: Open discussion, including the local elections platform

After the platform speakers the meeting will be open to discussion from the floor, including both responses to the platform speakers and the broad conference theme and any comments on the draft TUSC core policy platform for the May 2025 local elections (see pages 3-4).

1-00pm to 1-30pm: Replies and conference summary

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Our six guarantees for the May 2025 local elections

What TUSC councillors will do

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is an inclusive umbrella alliance with its banner available to be used on the ballot paper by every working-class fighter prepared to stand up to the capitalist establishment politicians at election time.

Every trade unionist, anti-cuts campaigner, community or social movement activist, and socialists from any party or none who want to see a working class alternative to the establishment parties, can become a TUSC candidate – free to also campaign, if they wish, for policies beyond our six policy guarantees below.

But as a minimum commitment for the 2025 local elections – the TUSC core policy platform for our council candidates – voters should know that any councillor elected under the TUSC banner will:

1. Oppose all cuts and closures to council services, jobs, pay and conditions; or their privatisation or transfer to social enterprises or 'arms-length' management organisations which are the first steps to their privatisation.
2. Reject council tax, rent and service charge increases for working-class people to make up for cuts in central funding.
3. Vote for councils to use their reserves and prudential borrowing powers to avoid making cuts in their 2025-2026 budgets and demand from the Labour government the additional funding needed to make up any future shortfall.
4. Refuse to co-operate with any commissioners or 'envoys' appointed by the Labour government to attempt to impose cuts on local services.
5. Support only democratically debated local Climate Emergency plans that create new employment, build flood defences, reduce emissions and improve air quality and the local environment, while protecting the jobs, pay and living standards of all workers.
6. Fight for united working-class struggle against racism, sexism and all forms of oppression. Back all workers' struggles against government policies making ordinary people pay for the crisis.

Comments received on the draft platform

The calling notice for the conference included an invitation to comment, or suggest amendments or additions to the draft core policies platform for the local elections, which this year has been re-badged as 'Our Six Guarantees: What TUSC councillors will do'. The two comments below were received in response.

As before, the platform is **not** an all-encompassing list of every possible policy that someone who stands for election using one of the TUSC descriptions on the ballot paper must or will campaign on. That is not how TUSC operates, being an inclusive coalition with its banner available to be used by any working-class fighter prepared to stand up to the capitalist establishment politicians at election time.

Instead, the individual trade unionists, community campaigners and social movement activists – or socialists who are members of different parties or not – control their own campaign. What the local elections core policies platform does represent, however, is the **minimum** policy commitment someone must make if they want to use the TUSC name and logo in a council election.

(i) From: Tunde Sowande

I'm a member of the TUSC. I just had some suggestions for the local council core platform.

Currently it seems very oriented towards anti-austerity but there is not much specific reference to themes of nationalization, decentralised forms of participation and expansive policies towards the council electoral process .

Also, can points related to societal discrimination in terms of anti-racist initiatives, legislation and representation be elaborated on further in the current manifesto?

Regards,

Tunde Sowande

(ii) From: Gary Howkins

I am a member of the Workers Party GB and I would like to see an addition to your policy platform. The statement for it is below.

- To inform constituents of the very real danger that Special Economic Zones and Freeports (whichever applicable in the local area) pose for workers' rights along with residents' living and environmental standards both locally and nationally. SEZs and Freeports transfer social and economic power from democratically-elected councils to private corporations. They must be opposed.

Would this be possible?

Kind regards,

Gary Howkins