

# Correspondence with the Leeds Greens on a No Cuts stance

## 1. Letter to the Leeds Greens: inquiry on candidates' position

From: **Leeds Socialist Party** <[leedssocialists@gmail.com](mailto:leedssocialists@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2026 at 13:39  
Subject: Inquiry as to your candidates position on no cuts budgets  
To: [kirkstallgreenparty@gmail.com](mailto:kirkstallgreenparty@gmail.com) <[kirkstallgreenparty@gmail.com](mailto:kirkstallgreenparty@gmail.com)>, [llwgreenparty@gmail.com](mailto:llwgreenparty@gmail.com) <[llwgreenparty@gmail.com](mailto:llwgreenparty@gmail.com)>, <[info@leedsgreenparty.org.uk](mailto:info@leedsgreenparty.org.uk)>, [brannocgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:brannocgreen@hotmail.com) <[brannocgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:brannocgreen@hotmail.com)>, [matt.rogan2@gmail.com](mailto:matt.rogan2@gmail.com) <[matt.rogan2@gmail.com](mailto:matt.rogan2@gmail.com)>, [cristiana.mirosanu@gmail.com](mailto:cristiana.mirosanu@gmail.com) <[cristiana.mirosanu@gmail.com](mailto:cristiana.mirosanu@gmail.com)>, <[penny.stables@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:penny.stables@leeds.gov.uk)>, <[wetherby@leeds.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:wetherby@leeds.greenparty.org.uk)>, <[ed.carlisle@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ed.carlisle@leeds.gov.uk)>, <[lou.cunningham@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lou.cunningham@leeds.gov.uk)>, <[mothin.ali@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:mothin.ali@leeds.gov.uk)>, [Chrisforen@protonmail.com](mailto:Chrisforen@protonmail.com) <[Chrisforen@protonmail.com](mailto:Chrisforen@protonmail.com)>, [MuellerWaite@gmail.com](mailto:MuellerWaite@gmail.com) <[MuellerWaite@gmail.com](mailto:MuellerWaite@gmail.com)>, [tor1981@gmail.com](mailto:tor1981@gmail.com) <[tor1981@gmail.com](mailto:tor1981@gmail.com)>, [AliceJohnson915@gmail.com](mailto:AliceJohnson915@gmail.com) <[AliceJohnson915@gmail.com](mailto:AliceJohnson915@gmail.com)>, [rlsparkes@gmail.com](mailto:rlsparkes@gmail.com) <[rlsparkes@gmail.com](mailto:rlsparkes@gmail.com)>, <[tim.goodall@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:tim.goodall@leeds.gov.uk)>, [LeonZadok@googlemail.com](mailto:LeonZadok@googlemail.com) <[LeonZadok@googlemail.com](mailto:LeonZadok@googlemail.com)>, <[cldr.david.blackburn@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.david.blackburn@leeds.gov.uk)>

Dear Green Party branches, campaign leads and councillors

We are writing to you to ascertain whether you would support a no cuts, rent rises or council tax rises alternative budget to Leeds City Council's, and additionally whether you would be prepared to support the initiative from trade unionists calling on Green Party leader Zack Polanski to ensure all Green Party candidates in this year's election would pledge not to vote for cuts and that all existing Green councillors would commit to the same.

You can view the petition initiated by trade union executive members here – <https://www.change.org/p/greens-must-pledge-no-cuts-to-services>

As you may know, we have contested recent elections in Leeds as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, which has a policy of not standing against councillors prepared to take a stand against cuts to jobs and services, as well opposing increases in rents and council tax to make up for cuts. We are therefore seeking the views of others on the left on these issues ahead of the May 2026 elections.

Yours  
Leeds Socialist Party  
[leedssocialists@gmail.com](mailto:leedssocialists@gmail.com)

## 2. Response from the Leeds Green Group

From: <[governance@leeds.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:governance@leeds.greenparty.org.uk)>  
Date: Wed, 11 Mar 2026, 17:28  
Subject: Re: Inquiry as to your candidates position on no cuts budgets  
To: <[leedssocialists@gmail.com](mailto:leedssocialists@gmail.com)>  
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Dear Leeds Socialist Party branch

In the Leeds Green Party we are against cuts in services, rent rises and rises to Council tax. At a national level, the Green Party of England and Wales are actively campaigning against austerity and for wealth taxes to fund public services. This all being said, the Green Party of England and Wales do not currently hold the balance of power in Westminster, despite our ambition to do so. Green councillors can be inventive within the bounds of delegated authority, and push for changes to budgetary constraints, but sometimes it will be unavoidable to vote in favour of Council tax rises to avoid cuts to other vital services or bankruptcy.

Since 2010, the Government has reduced funding to LCC by more than 40% in real terms. Huge savings have been made across the Council each year, and there are now more than 1,200 full time equivalent less Council jobs than in 2010. The Council is proposing raising Council tax by the 5% maximum allowed, which the majority of local authorities will do. Even with this additional income, some cuts to services are inevitable. It is illegal for a Council to run a deficit or unbalanced budget and this would result in Government stepping in as well as criminal liability for the Councillors who voted in favour of it.

There are key measures which we support:

- Rent rises as a last resort measure - Green Party policy is to introduce rent controls
- Prioritise cutting from corporations which supply services to the Council by insourcing, exploring the use of open source software, reviewing contracts and tender processes
- Explore other solutions to raise funds such as ecobonds (other Councils have already raised millions which are being used to lower bills by insulating homes and installing solar panels), clean air zone, night levy/tourism tax, increasing business rates etc.

We in the Green Group will oppose any cuts that are unfair and/or discriminatory, or where we believe there is another possible solution, but we can't commit to always oppose any cuts to services, as much as we would love to.

We recognise this is a complex issue that requires a nuanced discussion. Hopefully this clarifies our position.

Kind regards  
Cristiana Miroсанu  
Co-Governance and Policy Officer  
Leeds Green Party