

Leeds Against the Cuts Statement

Leeds Against the Cuts aims to organise and unite in effective action all those affected by the slash and burn austerity programme of the Tory-LibDem government and the £91m worth of cuts implemented by the Leeds City Council:

- x Public sector workers targeted with massive job cuts, a pay freeze and privatisation
- x The most vulnerable – the poor, unemployed, single parents, the disabled – whose benefits will be slashed
- x Women, youth and ethnic minorities who will be disproportionately affected.
- x Everyone, who will be hit with higher taxes, pension cuts, and over a million further job losses in the public, private and voluntary sectors due to austerity.

Yet we didn't cause this crisis, the bankers did. The trillion pound bank bailout is the root of the government debt. Yet to pay it off the millionaires are demanding huge cuts to our jobs and services.

Meanwhile new tax cuts for big business, coupled with tax avoidance by the wealthy, means the rich get richer and the hole in the budget gets bigger.

Privatisation means services like the NHS and education will be run increasingly for profit as the priority, resulting in worse services at higher cost, as well as job losses and pay cuts for the workers.

Cameron and Clegg claim their cuts are necessary and fair. They are nothing of the sort. The government is rewarding the rich while attacking the working class and entire welfare state, with the privatisation of the NHS and education at its heart.

Leeds Against the Cuts rejects this completely. The cuts are ideological and unnecessary. They will stifle growth and deepen the recession. There does not need to be a single cut and we reject every single one!

Instead, tax the rich, banks and business to protect and extend our public services, build council housing and other environmentally sound public works that will give useful work to the unemployed.

We pledge to fight every cut, locally and nationally, whatever party puts them forward.

We call on local councillors and MPs to reject every cut and pledge to campaign vigorously to defend those that do from attack.

We support all workers, students and communities taking action – protests, strikes, occupations – in defence of their jobs and services.

We support campaigns to repeal the anti-union laws and stop courts banning strikes, all aimed at restricting the democratic right to strike, and support workers forced to break them by aggressive bosses.

We support the TUC's call last year for mass coordinated strike action, up to and including a general strike to block the entire cuts agenda.

We reject all forms of division – racism, fascism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, the scapegoating of immigrants and asylum seekers – that could undermine a united response to the

cuts. Consequently we oppose the slogan 'British jobs for British workers' or any similarly poisonous racist slogan.

We oppose government expenditure on Trident renewal and wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

We call for the cancellation of the government's plan for the extension of nuclear power in Britain. We need a national plan for one million green climate jobs.

Leeds Against the Cuts will support all protesters and campaigners victimised by the police and will set up defence campaigns to defend those people and the right to protest

We pledge to campaign against every cut until the entire package is dropped.

Our Organisation

We aim to build a mass, democratic movement in Leeds to unite all those who are fighting the cuts.

We call upon the trade unions nationally, alongside the various national campaigns – such as the National Shop Stewards Network, Coalition of Resistance, People's Charter and Right to Work – to hold a democratic conference to launch a single, national coalition opposed to all cuts, as has been done in Leeds.

We pledge to build solidarity and links with existing community groups and unions in struggle.

We support the setting up of local, campus and workplace anti-cuts groups in the Leeds area.

We request local groups, campaigns and union bodies join Leeds Against the Cuts and send delegates to the Leeds-wide meeting.