



Hampshire

LRC

about representation omitt

Website: <http://hampshirelrc.wordpress.com>
Email: HampshireLRC@gmail.com
Tel: 07941 227757

*Uniting the movement,
rebuilding the party*



Saturday 26 March 2011

MARCH FOR THE ALTERNATIVE

Jobs • Growth • Justice



Assemble at 11am at Victoria Embankment, between Temple Place and Blackfriars, to march to a rally in Hyde Park

March for the alternative - book your place on a coach and say NO to the cuts!

Andover TUC have organized coaches. To find out more and book a seat visit: <http://andovertuc.wordpress.com/> or call Derek on 07939 595 092.

Unite are organising coaches from around the country. Contact Matt Tipper for more information.
E: Matt.Tipper@unitetheunion.org
T: 02380 637373

Find out why people are joining the march on the [PCS website](#):

PCS are organising coaches. To find out more visit their [website](#):

Defend jobs, services, education and pensions

NO cuts!

Defend jobs and services

Join the campaign to save the welfare state

Hants Association of Trades Union Councils

invites you to a

public meeting

Wednesday March 9, 7:30pm

Eastleigh Railway Institute 2 Romsey Road



with
Clare Solomon
University of London Union President
Megan Dobney
Southern & Eastern TUC secretary
Don Harper
National Pensioners' Convention (Hants)
Mark Woods
Unite convenor, Southampton City Council
Jon Woods
Unison convenor, Portsmouth, and PACT
Cllr Mike Roberts
Rushmore Borough Council

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Join the TUC demonstration
London

Saturday March 26

Check for transport from your area



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Can you help?

**PACT lobby of
Portsmouth City
Council's budget setting
meeting**

Tuesday February 8
1.30pm Guildhall
See page 2 for more details

**Lobby of Southampton
City Council's Budget
Setting Meeting**

Wednesday February 16,
1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m at front of
civic centre
for more information see page 6

Campaign news

Portsmouth lobby of full council meeting and alternative budget

Portsmouth Against the Cuts Together (PACT) campaigners are calling for people to gather outside the Guildhall and lobby councillors at Portsmouth City Council in order to urge them to reject the austerity budget.

The lobby will take place from **1.30pm on February 8, 2011.**

If councillors vote in favour of the slashed budget it will give a green light to cut vital services and jobs.

Anti cuts campaigners from PACT and trade unions will address the

meeting when the full council meet.

Campaigners will call on councillors to reject the austerity budget and adopt an alternative budget that does not punish the vulnerable and result in vital jobs being axed in the area, further exacerbating the economic downturn.

PACT hope the lobby will be a noisy one, so please consider offering your support.

PACT want councillors to know that they can not ruin

people's lives and futures without opposition.

By making a stand, PACT have said, that it sends a clear signal to the government that, in one of the world richest countries, it is not acceptable to punish the poor to pay for the bailouts of the financial crisis.

PACT have said that they don't have much faith in the various councillors doing the right thing: rejecting a budget that puts the political objectives of Cameron's government before the welfare of ordinary people, but PACT are hopeful that a reminder about the fact that they are up for re-election in May will help to focus their minds. Please join them **Tuesday 8th February 1.30pm Guildhall Square.**

Local Websites

Visit -
[Andover TUC](#)
[Southampton United for Public Services](#)
[Portsmouth Against the Cuts Together LRC](#)
[Hampshire LRC](#)

To send contributions please [email us](#)

Early Day Motions tabled by John McDonnell MP

Write to your MP and ask them to sign two Early Day Motions about bankers' bonuses and executive pay.

Download the template letter with further details on, by visiting: <http://tiny.cc/tDubw> or email HampshireLRC@gmail.com for more details.

Defend Council Housing

Download the [flyer](#) for the February 15 lobby of Parliament. More information to follow. Please try to contact residents and tenants associations and raise this with them. For more information please email HampshireLRC@gmail.com or eileenshort@hotmail.com

DON'T CUT SALISBURY JOBS

*SAVE OUR
PUBLIC SERVICES*

MARCH & RALLY

SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2011

11:00 - MARCH FROM MILLSTREAM COACH PARK

12:00 - RALLY AT QUEEN ELIZABETH GARDENS
WITH NATIONAL TRADE UNION SPEAKERS

Organised by Salisbury Against the Cuts 07711 057105

Andover TUC challenge MP George Young to reject more attacks on workers' rights

Pete Millward, Andover TUC 's president and LRC member responds to MP George Young's veiled threat to workers' rights, recently broadcast on Andover Sound.

If Andover's MP wants to avoid industrial strife he should oppose his government's vicious attack on jobs, public services, education and pensions, the town's Trade Union Council said today.

George Young's expressed hope that "where there is the threat of industrial action we can come to an amicable solution rather than simply making it illegal" was a thinly veiled and shameful threat of a fresh attack on workers' rights.

If there is the threat of strike action it is because the government that George Young is a part of has launched an all-out attack on jobs and services to try to make working people pay for a recession sparked by corporate greed.

Unions aren't looking for a fight, but when the government is intent on destroying the welfare state and implementing cuts that will wreck services as well as private-sector jobs he can hardly be surprised when we defend ourselves.

It is outrageous to suggest that people should only have the right to strike as long as they don't exercise it, and when Britain already has the worst anti-union laws in Europe we challenge George Young to condemn any attempt to tighten them further.

It is already clear that the ConDem government's slash-and-burn prescription for the

economy is more likely to kill it than to cure it, and we hope that Andover people will join us on the TUC march in London on March 26 to demand an end to it.

The idea that if we slash public spending the private sector will ride to the rescue is a fairy tale, because the reality out there is that every public-sector job the government destroys will take at least another private-sector job with it.

Public-sector and private-sector workers, students, pensioners

and everyone that benefits from public services should join forces to stop the millionaires in the ConDem government from wrecking what has taken generations to create.

Andover TUC have a public meeting on March 2 at Andover's Guildhall. See advert on page ? And download the flyer here.

To comment on this piece visit the Hampshire LRC website or the Andover TUC website.

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Wednesday March 2, 7:30pm



Andover Guildhall

with **Paul Barnsley**
National officer, PCS union

Megan Dobney,
Secretary, Southern & Eastern TUC

Julian Jones
Student activist - UCL occupation

National Pensioners' Convention Andover branch

Ian Woodland,
Unite union organiser

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Anti-cuts campaigners across the county urge councillors to vote no!

Anti-cuts campaigners across the country are urging councillors to reject the cuts, and now that we know councillors can not be surcharged we know that there is no personal risk to those councillors.

Some might argue that a Labour cut is better than a Tory cut, but with cuts facing us are so severe, and like nothing we have seen since the 1930s, the LRC argues that councillors should reject them.

Andrew Fisher and Pete Firmin, LRC joint secretaries recently wrote about this in the Morning Star: [Why councillors should fight the cuts.](#)

In Carlisle ex City Mayors are calling on councillors to reject the cuts and their press statement has been reproduced for interest.

“Put city before your party,” say ex City Mayors.

Former Carlisle first citizens Craig Johnston and John Metcalfe, have written to the current Mayor, Cllr Mary Styth, asking her to urge councillors to put the people of the city before their parties at next weeks City Council meeting, Tuesday February 1, 2011.

In a letter to all councillors, they call upon important budget decisions to be made with the people of the city, and public

services being the priority, and not use the meeting to slavishly follow

national party policies.

Speaking today, Craig Johnston, who was city Mayor in 1996/7 said: “Carlisle has a long and proud history of independent thinking, and its vital that when councillors enter the council chamber, that they do so to representing the best interests of their constituents.

“By voting to slash services they are directly attacking the future wellbeing of the city.”

John Metcalfe, who was the city’s Mayor in 1997 and 1998 added: “None of the Councillors in Carlisle stood on a platform of making huge cuts to the city’s services, and they have no public mandate to carry out such policies.

“Its time they stood up for the people, and vote against measures being imposed from the government.”

Craig Johnston was Mayor of Carlisle 1996 and 1997, and currently serves on the Executive of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers union, representing the north west of England.

John Metcalfe is a representative of the train drivers union ASLEF, he was Mayor during 1997 and 1998, and he is secretary of the local branch of the Communist Party.

Between them they served for over 25 years on Carlisle City Council.

Housing Emergency

Housing Emergency Mass Lobby of Parliament, February 15 - draft programme

Mass Lobby of Parliament

15 Feb 2011 12-4pm

Central Hall Westminster

Storey’s Gate SW1H 9NH

Hands Off Secure Tenancies

- No means test
- Cap Rents not Benefits
- Oppose up to 80% market rents
- No Evictions due to Housing Benefit cuts

- Build Council and other housing for rent

Before the election David Cameron said ‘We support social housing, we will protect it, and we respect social tenants’ rights.’

The Conservatives said the party had ‘no policy to change the current or future security of tenure of tenants in social housing’.

Inside Housing 30 April 2010.

Government proposals to cut housing benefit, force rents up to 80 per cent of market levels, and remove security of tenure for new tenants will increase fear and insecurity, rent arrears, evictions and homelessness. These policies do nothing to reduce high rents, Nor do they build the secure, genuinely affordable homes for rent we need, with 5 million already on housing waiting lists.

Ministers want to drive people into insecure, expensive private renting and

Continued on page 7

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UNISON Statement on Southampton City Council's Cuts

UNISON today received details of the Conservative Southampton City Council's devastating proposals to meet the coalition Governments spending cuts required in their Comprehensive Spending Review announced on 20 October 2010.

As expected the Tory Council's decision is to cut services to the most vulnerable residents in the City including slashing Youth services by over 50 jobs, (25% of staffs) on top of severe cuts already being made. This will effectively end Youth service provision in the City.

The Council has proposed 250 job cuts across all services and threatened another 400 jobs will go if staffs do not accept a 5.4% pay cut through an enforced reduction in working hours, loss of sick pay and other cuts to terms and conditions. UNISON representatives were shocked at the Council's proposals which will leave all staffs in fear of their jobs and ability to support their families when living costs continue to rise.

UNISON has called an urgent meeting for all members on 24 November to consider our response. All options including industrial

action will be considered as members seek to protect the vital services they provide. The effects of the cuts proposed will disproportionately hit low paid women workers and carers that rely on these services.

It does not have to be this way. The Tory City Council is following the coalition governments spending plans which effectively seek to repay a 25 year mortgage in 5 years, rather than join UNISON's campaign for growth and for the deficit to be met by tax changes. We currently have billions in tax being avoided by the companies that support the Tory party.

A bank transactions tax should also be introduced alongside other progressive tax changes instead of cutting vital services. Instead we have regressive cuts by the Tory Council hitting the vulnerable people in the City and workers being asked to pay the price of the banks failings.

UNISON will be campaigning to avoid these draconian cuts to services and will ensure that the people of Southampton at elections on 5 May next year hold to account the Tory Councillors in this City putting forward these proposals in support of the Coalition Governments spending cuts.

Lobby of Southampton City Council Budget Setting Meeting



a million
voices
for
public
services

**Wednesday February 16,
1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.**

**Meet at the front of the civic centre Southampton
visit the facebook group:**

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_168852336470037

Housing Emergency

Mass Lobby of

Parliament, February 15 - draft programme (continued from page 5)

destroy the principles of public housing. We want secure and stable mixed communities – not poverty traps and transit camps.

Hands off our tenancies, our homes and our benefits.

Alan Ritchie, General Secretary of construction union UCATT:

"Government policies will result in new tenants being penalised and communities becoming ghettoised. Rather than slashing the budget for new housing by 70 per cent the Government should be investing in new council housing to reduce waiting lists and help to get skilled construction workers back to work."

Linda Burnip Disabled People Against Cuts:

In many parts of the country it is already impossible for disabled people to get social housing due to the very severe shortage of accessible properties. Some councils fund claimants to rent in the Private Rented Sector to compensate for this shortfall however that will now become impossible due to the proposed changes to Local Housing Allowance leading to disabled people being trapped in either much more expensive nursing homes or other inadequate and unsuitable homes.

To seek to remove full Housing Benefit from anyone who is unemployed for over 12 months when unemployment is rising rapidly will simply fuel homelessness for all claimant groups and can only be considered absurd behaviour on the part of the coalition government.

Heather Wakefield Unison National Secretary Local Government:

The Coalition government is engaged in act of pure vandalism on social housing and tenants. Services and jobs will be cut to pay for the New Homes Bonus Grant which is being top sliced from council grants, even though few new homes will be delivered. Tenants will face the spectre of homelessness and insecure housing once more as 'insecure tenancies' and 'nearly market rents' eat into the fabric of social housing. UNISON will stand together with all those campaigning for that basic human right – a decent home, at a decent cost.

12 noon Opening Rally. Speakers Inc:

Frank Dobson MP

Caroline Lucas MP Councillor

Catherine West *Leader Islington Council*

Jackie Peacock *Brent Private Tenants*

Councillor Kieran Thorpe *Welwyn*

Hatfield

Linda Burnip *Disabled People Against Cuts*

Linda McNeil *Leeds Tenants Federation*

Mark Serwotka *PCS General Secretary*

Wilf Flynn *Building Union UCATT*

Right to Work Campaign,

2pm workshops

What to say to Your MP – our Case
Alex Kennedy Crisis

Is it Legal? – standing up for our rights
Liz Davies Housing Law Practitioners
Association

Effective Local campaign Leeds
Tenants Federation and Housing Justice/
London Coalition Against Poverty

Our Alternative – Money's there to invest
in homes and services PCS and DCH

Together we can defeat this attack. Tenants present and future, public and private, council and RSL, with trade unions, councillors and MPs, housing and disability campaigners and others, together can ensure an active, united opposition. We need to get organised to wake up MPs and Councillors to the havoc these policies will cause and our determination to stop them.

Tenants are not second class citizens. We have fought for every right we have today. We won secure tenancies in 1980 – under a Conservative Government. We have resisted privatisation and forced councils, MPs and landlords to listen. Now we have to organise locally and nationally to defeat these attacks and demand investment in council and other housing to meet the growing Housing Emergency.

What's Next? Get your MP to sign EDM (details to follow)

Link up with other tenants groups, trade unions and campaigners

Organise letters to local papers, leafleting

and a public meeting

Take a petition and deputation to your local Council for a commitment:

- not to use fixed-term tenancies
- to oppose up to 80% market rents
- not to evict tenants in arrears due to housing benefit cuts
- to call on other landlords to do the same

Join us in a united campaign for investment in new and improved council and other rented housing

Join the tenants march on 26 March – bring banners and posters to a Housing Emergency rallying point, and join the giant march for xxxx united to defend public rights and services

Housing Emergency is bringing together organisations and individuals to oppose attacks on Housing Benefit, rents and secure tenancies, and for investment in new and improved council and affordable secure rented homes

Supporters include: House of Commons Council Housing Group, Defend Council Housing, trade unions Unite, PCS, GMB, UNISON, UCATT, PCS, South East Region TUC, Barking & Dagenham Council, Islington Council, Leeds Tenants Federation, Tower Hamlets Tenants Federation, London Coalition Against Poverty, Right to Work Campaign, Labour Representation Committee, Disabled People Against Cuts, National Tenants Council members,

Further information:

Mitchellav@parliament.uk or
eileenshort@hotmail.com

This is a draft document so some of the details have yet to be finalised.

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Andover

Trades Union Council

An injury to one is an injury to all

Secretary: Derek Kotz (RMT), 28 Lowry Court, Andover, SP10 3SX,
H; 01264 351 765, M: 07939 595 092, Email: d.kotz@btinternet.com

President: Peter Millward (USDAW)

Dear colleague,

The Annual General Meeting of Andover TUC will be held at 19:30 on Monday, February 14 at the Andover Railway Club, Station Approach. An officers' meeting will be held at 19:00. Please do your utmost to attend – we have a great deal to discuss and much campaigning to organise. All trade unionists are welcome to attend.

Please find attached a flyer for the public meeting – Say No to Cuts – which will be held at the Andover Guildhall on Wednesday March 2 at 19:30. Please distribute the flyer as widely as possible. Can YOU help distribute leaflets in the town centre this weekend (Saturday March 5)? If you can, please give me a call to arrange details.

ATUC has also booked two coaches for the March 26 TUC demonstration in London: anyone who wants to travel to London can contact me on the above number/email to reserve FREE places. Departure point will be advised shortly.

Please pass on this notice to anyone you think will be interested in the work of Andover TUC.

Many thanks and best wishes

**Derek Kotz
ATUC secretary**