

## TUSC minimum programme

- Oppose all cuts and closures to council services, jobs, pay and conditions.

We reject the claim that 'some cuts' are necessary to our services or that the Covid crisis and inflation austerity are a reason for attacks on working class people's living standards.

- Support all workers' struggles against government policies making ordinary people pay for the crisis, and for inflation-proof pay rises – no to fire and rehire.

- Fight for a united working-class struggle against racism, sexism and all forms of oppression.

- Use councils' powers to begin a mass building programme of eco-friendly affordable council homes to tackle the housing crisis.

- Oppose fracking and fight for local Climate Emergency plans, based on genuine democratic debate, that create new employment, reduce emissions and improve air quality and the local environment, while protecting the jobs, pay and conditions of all workers.

- Reject council tax, rent and service charge increases for working-class people to make up for cuts in central funding, support a redistributive revenue-raising system to finance local council services, and demand central government restores the cuts in funding it has imposed.

- Vote against the privatisation of council jobs and services, or the transfer of existing council services to social enterprises or 'arms-length' management organisations which are the first steps to their privatisation.

- 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 whatever powers councils retain to refer local NHS decisions, and to initiate referendums and organise public commissions and consultations in campaigns to defend public services.
- Refuse to co-operate with commissioners sent by the central government to attempt to impose cuts on local services.
- Vote for councils to refuse to implement austerity. TUSC councillors 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 defend and improve council services is to set a budget that meets the needs of the local community and demand that government funding makes up the shortfall.

Upon election TUSC councillors would at the first opportunity put forward for a vote in the council chamber the following immediate emergency measures for the council to take against cost-of-living suffering:

#### NO ONE TO BE COLD

Top up the Tory's miserly Household Support Fund to provide grants for those unable to pay their bills; an emergency programme of home insulation; extend the opening of public buildings, including libraries, to provide staffed warm spaces and youth facilities.

#### NO ONE TO BE HUNGRY

Fund kitchens in schools and other services to introduce free breakfasts, lunches and evening meals; expand food banks and distribution of safe food 'waste' under democratic council control; fund public provision of high quality free care, including childcare, to prevent care cost-related hunger.

## NO ONE TO BE HOMELESS

Use council licencing powers to cap rents, including for students, and ban evictions of those who fall into cost-of-living-related arrears; use compulsory-purchase orders to take over empty homes to house working-class families and young people in housing need; for an emergency shared-ownership programme to support struggling mortgage-holders; expand specialist domestic violence refuges and services.