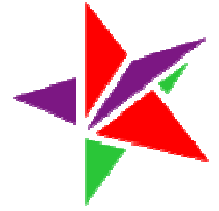


Socialist Resistance

The Fourth International in Britain



Defend Jobs, Defend Services

Build the resistance to Con-Dem cuts!

The threat of redundancy hangs over all 26,000 Birmingham City Council workers who have been given Section 188 notices warning of cuts in pay and conditions.

That is the whole council workforce, excluding school staff.

BCC faces cuts of £330 million and Chief Executive Stephen Hughes (who earns over £200,000 a year) says he expects a third of administrative jobs to be lost in the next four years.

We have to be absolutely clear- this crisis is not of our making, it is not the ordinary people of this country who have been 'living beyond our means' but the fat cats, the greedy bankers and bosses- and they, not us, should be the ones to pay for it!

We will not tolerate the decimation of local services and this wholesale destruction of our livelihoods.



As RESPECT councillor for Sparkbrook, Salma Yaqoob wrote earlier this year:

"One of the reasons the council is in a financial mess is because of money wasted on consultants.

Another £67 million is to be spent this year alone... It is 'a drop in the ocean' they say, in the context of a £3 billion budget. I would like to see them say that to community groups in my ward starved of funding,

or families stuck for years on housing waiting lists because the council is not building enough homes."

We say city councillors are elected to deliver services to the residents that they represent– not to destroy them. **They have no mandate for cuts.**

Faced with a funding crisis, the Council should first cut out all real waste, the huge consultancy fees and bloated wages of top officials. If this still leaves a funding gap, there are two alternatives; set a needs budget, or resign.

A needs budget provides for decent services for all- drawn up in consultation with residents and the community, through a participatory budget process and based on the real needs of local people.

Such a budget, of course, would set the council on a collision course with central government and would require the widest mobilisation of the workers and service users of Birmingham to push for its implementation. This would take the form of mass meetings, protest rallies and demonstrations and, crucially, sustained industrial action including all out strikes.

The recent TUC Congress voted to oppose cuts and austerity measures. We need to hold them to this - to turn their fine words into action on the ground. And we call upon the Labour Party, local and national, to throw its weight behind such a campaign.

Contact us by telephoning **0777 594 2841** or by email: ser14@btinternet.com
Or you can write to us at PO Box 62732 London SW2 9GQ
Birminghamresist.wordpress.com
SocialistResistance.org

There is an alternative...

Jerry Hicks is standing as a candidate in the election for General Secretary of the UNITE Union.



Jerry Hicks for General Secretary!

He has made it clear where he stands on the issue of cuts.

He says "This is a crisis not of our making, we should not be paying one single penny, not losing one single job nor face any reduction in benefits or services. angry words will not be enough to stop the butchery to jobs, services and benefits we as

ordinary people face from the Con-Dem government."

As Jerry points out that, a massive £100 billion goes uncollected from big business and the very wealthy in tax avoidance, this is where the money should come from to pay off the debt. There is an alternative, the case has to be made, then we will need to fight for it not just campaign.

We must build our way out of the recession, more jobs not less, more public projects not fewer, and the money is there, it's just being spent on the wrong things.

Bringing the troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq would save billions of pounds and thousands of lives, coupled with scrapping Trident saving up to £75 billion.

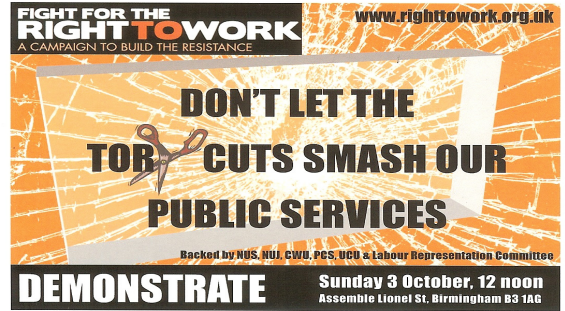
Spend that instead on:

£25 billion for building schools, hospitals and council houses providing 100,000 jobs in construction.

£25 billion for 'Green energies', sea, solar and wind, creating up to one million jobs

That still leaves £25 billion for state pension increases making ours one of the best in Europe instead of being the third worse.

<http://jerryhicks.wordpress.com/wp-login.php>



Sunday 3rd October— join the demonstration at Tory Party Conference, here in Birmingham.



Spending Review Demo:

Wednesday 20th October

5.00 – 6.45pm

Government Office for W. Midlands
St Philips Place, off Colmore Row

Birmingham Peoples Charter Conference:

How To Fight the Cuts

A New Vision For Birmingham

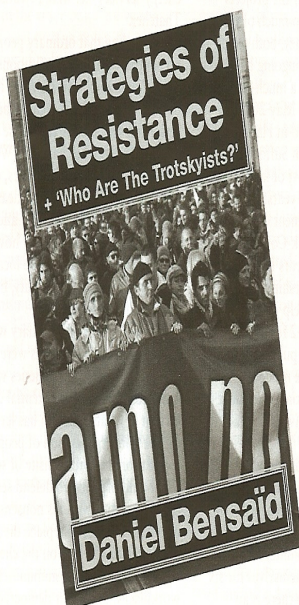
Saturday 23rd October

10.00am – 4.00pm

Council House, Victoria Square
Birmingham

Tony Benn, John Hendy QC and reps from local campaigns.

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Send order and payment to: Socialist Resistance,
PO Box 62732, London SW2 9GQ or send payment by
paypal.com to resistance@sent.com



National Organising Conference

Saturday November 27

Camden Centre
Bidborough Street,
London, WC1H 9AU
10am—5pm

Birmingham Socialist Resistance holds regular Forums every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, Bennett's Bar, Bennetts Hill, Central Birmingham

**For further details email
ser14@btinternet.com or call
Stuart on 0777 594 2841**