

Scottish Socialist Party

Public
Sector
Workers
Voice



UNITE & DEFY DEMOLITION COALITION CUTS demand Scottish government & Councils set 'No-Cuts' Defiance Budgets

scrap the Council Tax - tax the rich - raise £1.6bn extra

Westminster's Twin Tory butchers have declared all-out war on jobs, services, benefits, pensions and pay. They are robbing £18bn off the poorest in benefits, to pay for bailing out the richest - the bankers. They are slaughtering jobs, services, education, schools, pay and pensions - hitting the poorest 15 times harder than the richest. **And there is absolutely no excuse for ANY cuts:** the money is there to defend every job, service and salary - but it is in the hands of the bankers, billionaires and big business. **As the Scottish government and 32 Scottish councils prepare next year's budgets, they face a stark choice: DEFY, OR DESTROY!**

Stand up for the Scottish people and defy the Westminster dictatorship's cuts - or act as their spineless servants, by passing on the Tories' cuts. SSP members in the unions, local communities and universities are campaigning for united action to stop ALL cuts. We are demanding the Scottish government refuse to pass on Westminster's £1.3bn cut to this year's block grant. We are demanding they set a No-Cuts defiance budget and help build a mass rebellion of the Scottish people - to demand back our £1.3bn, stolen by the Westminster thieves to bail out the bankers and billionaires. **The same applies to Councils.** Fine words of criticism

from Labour, SNP and other councillors won't save jobs, services or salaries. Action louder than words is needed. **Councillors should be bombarded with demands - from unions and community groups - that they set No-Cuts budgets, and then join forces with workers and communities in a mass campaign to demand the SNP government "give us back the stolen £millions", to balance the books.**

No cuts are acceptable - or necessary. Neither Coalition cuts, nor lesser, slower Labour or SNP cuts. The unions should lay plans for a united one-day strike of the entire 600,000-strong public sector in early 2011 - to force back the Scottish butchers, before council budgets are set in stone. To build a rebellion in the workplaces that would embolden communities too. **Unite and defy! No cuts - tax the rich - people not profit.**

BUILD & DEMAND DEFIANCE

"Any council or Scottish government worth its salt would defy the cuts being imposed by a Westminster dictatorship without a mandate in Scotland.

They would set People's Budgets - No-Cuts budgets - and mobilise a rebellion of the Scottish people alongside trade unions, pensioners', students' and community groups - demanding the necessary funding off Westminster and Holyrood to save every job, service and salary.

On top of that, if the SNP government was serious about stopping the ConDem cuts, they would introduce an emergency Bill to abolish the Council Tax and replace it with a Scottish Service Tax, based on ability to pay, with sliding scales of tax according to income. The SSP's latest research proves this would raise an additional £1.6bn a year - removing all excuses for cuts.

Trade unionists and community activists need to build resistance on the ground to pressurise the Labour and SNP politicians into turning fine words of criticism of Westminster's butchery into real action.

Demand the councils and Holyrood government set No-Cuts budgets and fight for the funding to stop ALL cuts."

JIM BOLLAN, Scottish Socialist Party councillor, West Dunbartonshire

COMPARE the council tax



Labour:

Higher council tax, more cuts & poorer services

SNP:

Same council tax, more cuts & poorer services

Scottish Socialist Party:

Under SSP proposals for a Scottish Service Tax, 70% pay less & the well-off pay their fair share, creating a £1.5bn surplus = no cuts, & better services for all. Simple!

www.comparethecounciltax.com

for more material on community and trade union struggles - and socialist policies to combat public service cuts, mass unemployment, low pay, rent rises, privatisation, and the attempts to make workers pay for the bosses' crisis, visit:

www.scottishsocialistparty.org & www.comparethecounciltax.com

build united action - demand No-Cuts Budgets that defy Westminster & Holyrood butchery - give us back our stolen £millions

The butchers' Coalition - with 23 millionaires and 4 ex-bankers in a Cabinet of 29 - spew out the monstrous lie that cuts are "unavoidable and necessary".

The public debt is mainly the result of the £1.3trillion bankers' bailout, mass unemployment, loss of taxes. But it is still only 70% of GDP - whereas it never fell below 100% of GDP from 1918 'til 1961. Job cuts will massively add to the debt.

There are numerous "better ways" - without a penny cut in pay, benefits, pensions, or the loss of a single job or service - with vast scope to improve the shoddy system we endure already:

■ scrapping the unfair, regressive Council Tax and replacing it with a Scottish Service Tax based on income would raise an extra £1.6bn next year - more than Osborne has slashed off the Scottish budget!

■ £120bn A YEAR in taxes on the rich and big business are avoided, evaded or uncollected - that's 75% of the 2009 deficit!

■ a modest 10% wealth tax on the richest 1,000 fatcats would raise £35bn a year - enough to create 1.4 million jobs on a £25,000 wage.

■ restoration of tax on the richest elite and Corporations to pre-

Thatcher levels (a policy the SSP shares with the PCS union) would raise up to £250bn a year extra.

■ scrapping Trident (whilst guaranteeing Faslane workers' jobs through diversification into peaceful, socially useful work) would save £100bn.

■ full and democratic public ownership of the banks would give us access to £560bn in liquid cash and £5trillion in assets.

There is nothing unavoidable or necessary about this Coalition's butchery. The cuts are driven by ideological hatred of public services, a ruthless intent to reverse the gains made by past working class struggles - a mission to use the whip of mass unemployment and starvation-level benefits to drive wages down even further, boosting profits even higher.

The ultimate 'better way' is a socialist Scotland, independent of the Westminster butchers, with democratic public ownership and control of the vast wealth and resources; an end to war and Trident; and a plan of clean, green production and services, based on people not profit.

Join Scotland's genuine socialist alternative, the SSP, to build that future.

HOW TO AVOID ALL CUTS
www.comparethecounciltax.com

examples of what YOU would pay under the SSP's income-based Scottish Service Tax

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>YEARLY BILL</u>
under £10,000	ZERO!
£15,000	£225
£20,000	£450
£25,000	£675
£32,000	£1,100
£57,521 [an MSP!!]	£4,028

SUM TOTAL: £3.4bn for next year's council budgets - an EXTRA £1.6bn - by taxing the rich ...cancelling out Osborne's cuts to block grant.

WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR THE BANKERS' BAILOUT?
there IS a better way - socialism - not service cuts

A public sector worker's appeal

"Devolution provides the unions, community groups and anti-cuts alliances with an added weapon to fight the cuts. We can demand our elected MSPs set a Budget to protect jobs, pay and public services - in defiance of a cuts Coalition with no mandate in Scotland - and then wage a battle for the funds off Westminster." **JOHN JAMIESON, Public & Commercial Services union NEC**

A council worker's appeal

"It's time to get the gloves off to fight plans at every level of government to decimate the public sector. We need to follow the lead of the French workers.

Councillors have no mandate to implement this catastrophe. Instead, they should set No Cuts budgets, needs budgets.

The likelihood of them agreeing to set defiance budgets are slim unless they know there is a fire

beneath them that will leave them with no choice but to stand up for the people they claim to serve.

Public sector trade unionists and service users can stand together and win - it happened in Poplar and Vale of Leven in the 1920s and in Liverpool in the 1980s. Those prepared to make a stand then were isolated, but today we must ensure that the fight-back is general."

COLIN TURBETT, Chairperson, North Ayrshire UNISON (personal capacity)



JOIN the SSP: the only party that has fought all cuts by all parties since 1998

JOIN THE SSP TODAY - the party of workers' unity, public ownership and socialism

name..... email.....
 address.....
 phone(s) union.....

return this form to: SSP, 93 Hope St (suite 370), Glasgow G2 6LD
 ring 0141 221 7470 or 07828 278 093 email: richieventon@hotmail.com
www.scottishsocialistparty.org budgetCutsssp17.11.2010