

Resolution Title: Support for No Cuts Budgets in Local Authorities

Resolution Date: 12 February 2019

This branch reaffirms its support for Unites policy of calling on local authorities not to implement cuts and notes the appended resolution adopted by Enfield North CLP.

Cuts to local authority services are immensely damaging to local communities and directly to Unite members employed by local authorities and those employed in local authority funded services such as supported housing services.

We support the Enfield North initiative and agree to write to the CLP expressing solidarity and offering to support practical initiatives.

We call on all CLP delegates to support or move resolutions supporting no cuts budgets on local Labour party's.

We agree to support campaigns for no cuts budgets across London and nationally, and, if passed, we will forward the motion through Unite's structures via the Regional Committee.

Motion passed by Enfield North CLP:

This CLP notes that local authority services are facing catastrophic funding cuts all across the country, as part of the Tory government's policy of economic austerity.

In the London Borough of Enfield, the ruling Labour administration is preparing to comply with the latest round of Tory cuts, even though the council has already cut £178m since 2010. For the 2019/20 financial year it is planning to implement a further £18m of cuts. Vital services are under threat and the impact will fall most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community.

Apart from being opposed to Tory austerity in principle, this CLP believes that if the Labour Party in Enfield implements a programme of Tory cuts it will risk bringing the Labour Party into disrepute and thus damage Labour's electoral prospects.

However, this CLP also believes that our Labour councillors do have a choice about whether to comply with the Tories. The current Conservative government is the weakest in living memory. Austerity is not inevitable and the Tories can be defeated on this issue.

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This CLP urges the Labour controlled administration in LB Enfield together with the three CLP's with their roughly combined memberships of 3,000, and the borough's three Labour MP's to publicly commit to resisting the cuts using all legal means at their disposal.

This CLP therefore urges our Labour councillors to adopt a brave and principled position opposing the cuts and demanding that central government grants funding back to pre-austerity 2010 levels. This CLP believes that a campaign, involving the council workforce through their trades unions, the CLP memberships and the wider working class communities from across Enfield can be built through a series of large anti-cuts public meetings, rallies and demonstrations, thus mobilising a huge groundswell of public support for the Labour councillors.

This CLP therefore urges the labour controlled council to start the campaign by:

Firstly, setting a 'No cuts budget' involving the use of the council's access to financial reserves and borrowing powers to avoid the implementation of cuts for this coming financial year (2019/20); and

Secondly by using the valuable time gained during this financial year to build and mobilise a grassroots mass campaign of support for the councillors in time for the next financial year (2020/21).

An Enfield borough-wide conference should be convened, inviting all interested organisations (trade unions, anti-cuts campaign groups, tenants associations and community organisations etc) to come and discuss and then agree on the practical measures needed to support the councillors and resist austerity.

Above all this should be a national campaign. We are all facing the same enemy, the Tory government. Enfield Council should therefore reach out to Labour councils throughout London and the rest of the country so that a national conference of Labour councillors who are willing to stand up to the Tories can be convened.