

Scottish Socialist Party

Public Sector
Workers
Voice



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

● **TAX THE RICH - scrap the unfair Council Tax - raise £1.6bn a year MORE with Scottish Service Tax!**

build united ONE-DAY PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE

The Twin Tory millionaires' Cabinet gloated and cheered as Osborne declared war on over 100,000 Scottish jobs; benefits for the most vulnerable; schools and community services; the NHS; workers' pay and pensions. Slashing Scotland's block grant by £1.3bn this year spells devastation in local government, construction, education - public *and* private sector. The vast rise in unemployment will *worsen* the deficit! The poorest will be hit hardest. **The hour has struck for united, decisive action - as well as alternative policies - to stop this slaughter.** The thousands marching today are critical to building a rebellion on the scale of the anti-poll tax movement - through your union, community, pensioners' or students' organisations - and by building local anti-cuts alliances.

● **Demand the SNP government and Councils set 'No-Cuts' Defiance budgets that refuse to pass on Westminster's butchery.**

SNP, Labour and other politicians who claim to oppose the Twin Tories' cuts now face a stark choice: **defy or destroy.**

If the SNP government was serious about defending Scotland, they should set a budget next month without a penny cut in pay or services, not a single job loss, and demand the missing £1.3bn back off the Westminster thieves who stole it to bail out the bankers and billionaires. They should call workers and communities into action in support of their defiance, with rallies, demonstrations, peaceful civil disobedience and industrial action. A nation in rebellion could win back the £1.3bn for next year's Scottish spending needs.

● **Build a mass lobby of Scottish parliament**

Given the SNP's record so far, they won't show the spine to do this unless they face a rebellion from below. The STUC should use today's demo to call a mass lobby of the Scottish parliament to stop tartan butchery next month. If the STUC fail to, public sector unions should call it.

● **Make councillors fight**

Councils face the same stark choice: defy or destroy. Bombard councillors with demands for No Cuts budgets, mounting mass campaigns to demand the stolen millions back off Holyrood to balance the books, with no cuts.

● **Axe the Council Tax** - demand an emergency Bill in the Scottish parliament to replace it with the income-based Service Tax; to raise £1.6bn extra in 2011.

● **Build a Scottish one-day public sector strike in early 2011**

No cuts are acceptable - or necessary. Neither Coalition cuts, nor lesser, slower Labour or SNP cuts. The STUC should today declare 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 the council budgets are set in stone. To build the rebellion in the workplaces that would embolden communities too.

examples of what YOU'D pay PER YEAR under the SSP's Scottish Service Tax:

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>SERVICE TAX BILL</u>
under £10,000	ZERO!
£15,000	£225
£20,000	£450
£25,000	£675
£32,000	£1,100
£60,000 (MPs!)	£4,400
SUM TOTALS: £3.4bn In 2011-12...	
£1.6bn MORE than from the Council Tax!	

THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR ANY CUTS!

The Council Tax freeze is adding to cuts. Labour's plan to jack up Council Tax bills will hit low- and middle-income families hardest, cutting incomes. Neither is a solution.

The SSP has campaigned for 12 years to scrap the unfair, regressive Council Tax - and put forward a progressive, re-distributive alternative that would also raise far more funds for jobs, pay and services - the income-based Scottish Service Tax.

New updated research shows this could raise an additional £1.6bn next year! 80% of Scots would be better off. It would mean vastly IMPROVED pay, job creation and service expansion, rather than cuts. All it takes is for the Scottish government to legislate. The SSP does NOT want this alternative to remain our exclusive property! We want unions and community organisations - and politicians from other parties - to study, discuss and consider backing this radical alternative to cuts - which obliterates the argument that "cuts are unavoidable". Contact us for fuller details/research documents - arrange a discussion - or invite a speaker to your next meeting.

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 lobby of Scottish parliament - demand People's Budgets that defy Westminster & Holyrood cuts - give us back the 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! {see box on front page for more details}

- £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.

BUILD & DEMAND DEFIANCE

"Any council or Scottish government worth its salt would defy the cuts being imposed by a Westminster junta 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 on the STUC demo 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.

- Build a mass lobby of the Scottish parliament to demand they defy Westminster's Budget cuts next month

- 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

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



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

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

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

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