Save Our Services in Surrey

SOSiS

c/o UNISON

Fairmount House

Bull Hill

Leatherhead

Surrey KT22 7AH

[saveourservicessurrey@gmail.com](mailto:saveourservicessurrey@gmail.com)

This is my/our submission to the **Peoples Budget Conference Saturday 25th June**

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| --- | --- |
| Name:  Email: | Representing (organisation name or ‘self’) |
| Example:  **Reinstate night-time fire safety cover at all Surrey fire stations** | |
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Please return to Save Our Services in Surrey by 5pm on Friday 17th June.

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**Mission Statement**

**For the People’s Budget Conference on 25th June**

Save Our Services in Surrey (SOSiS) is an inclusive network, involving trade unionists, working class community campaigners and social movement activists in different parties or none. We have led and supported hundreds of campaigns to defend public services from council and government cuts.

In 2010 we adopted a charter (updated in 2019 and reprinted below) which we have asked all candidates in local and general elections to endorse. In 2022, after more than a decade of austerity, we are stepping up a gear..

SOSiS are encouraging all our supporters, in the trade unions and community campaigns, to consider standing in elections under a common manifesto – the Peoples Budget - while preserving their own identities, party labels and with the ability to highlight any particular policies and issues that they may wish to campaign on.

We want trade unions, workplace reps, community campaigners and all our supporters to consider what they think should be part of our People’s Budget. Not about what the council might be able to afford financially under austerity – but about what is needed. The conference on 25th June will debate and agree upon a final budget/manifesto for candidates to campaign under. This will not be based on pounds, shillings and pence but on people’s needs.

Peoples Budget-supporting councillors would be at the heart of any local and national struggle over public services and that is a step towards a society in which people can enjoy life to its fullest without the fear of unemployment, homelessness, poverty and discrimination. They would also share an absolutely unequivocal commitment to resisting the austerity measures that we know are coming from the pro-big business establishment politicians seeking to pass the costs of the Covid crisis onto the working class.

Every trade unionist, anti-cuts campaigner, community activist and all those who want to see an alternative to austerity politicians can join us and stand on our Peoples Budget.

This is our current charter:

1. Oppose all cuts to public sector jobs, services, pay, terms and conditions and to work towards the reversal of all Tory cuts. This means voting against all austerity cuts.
2. Support all workers’ struggles against the cuts, outsourcing and privatisation. To put the argument that ordinary people should not have to pay for a crisis caused by politicians, big business and bankers.
3. Reject all unaffordable increases in taxes, rents, fares and service charges to compensate for government cuts. To support the reversal of the Tory tax cuts for the rich. To support the adequate resourcing of HMRC to stop tax avoidance and evasion by the super-rich and by multinational companies.
4. Vote against the privatisation of public sector jobs and services, or their forced transfer to ‘social enterprises’, ‘arms length’ companies or the community sector.
5. Oppose racism, discrimination and fascism. Promote equality for all.
6. Actively campaign alongside trade unions and community organisations to oppose cuts, privatisation and outsourcing.
7. Campaign for an increase in the minimum wage and actively promote the introduction of the London Living Wage in Surrey.
8. Support and actively promote action against climate change, working for a future where sustainability comes first.
9. Call for the repeal of all the Tory anti-trade union laws.
10. Support and promote the full renationalisation, under democratic public ownership and control, of the NHS, the Railways, Royal Mail and the major energy companies.

The conference in 25th June will develop and expand these points and include more detail as to what we would be demanding in Surrey and in the districts and boroughs.

We are aware that councillors trying to implement such a much-needed radical budget will come under extreme pressure from mainstream politicians, the government and the media and we pledge to support any councillor who makes such a stand and fights for workers and residents needs.

We agree 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 to demand that government funding makes up the shortfall.