

liverpool against the cuts

FOR A DEMOCRATIC, BROAD-BASED ANTI-CUTS CAMPAIGN

Liverpool Solidarity Federation believes that it is important working class people and communities organise themselves against attacks by the ruling class. That is why we support an all-Liverpool anti-cuts campaign, uniting communities, workplaces, employed and unemployed, able-bodied and disabled, students and pensioners to fight the most savage attacks our class has ever faced.

We believe such a campaign should be open, democratic and based on direct action. We argue for a movement built from below, where working class people take control of our own struggles as a precursor to taking control of our own lives, our own communities and our own workplaces.

As such, we believe that such a campaign should be based on the following principles:

A delegate council – NOT a central committee

Every organisation which takes part in this campaign should have a say in how it is run. Instead of electing a central/steering committee to **make decisions for us**, we should **make the decisions ourselves** through a delegate council composed of mandated, recallable delegates from each campaign or organisation involved. This avoids one group imposing its will by dominating a steering committee or through caucusing.

Officers

In order to keep the campaign running, it will be necessary to elect a secretary and treasurer for the delegate council. These roles should be administrative, rather than decision-making ones, and subject to immediate recall if it is felt they are not fulfilling their mandates. There should be no standing chair, with such being elected or appointed at each meeting as required. This keeps control of the campaign with the mass of ordinary members, through their mandated delegates, and removes the possibility of being controlled (or demobilised) from above.

Federalism

The strength of the movement against austerity is its diversity of organisations and tactics. Any new coordinating campaign across Liverpool should be federal in structure to allow individual groups to continue to exist autonomously and act upon their own initiatives. This means that groups can remain in disagreement with decisions taken by the majority, rather than being bound by a diktat from above.

Mass meetings

Whilst decisions would be made by a vote of delegates, mass, open meetings should still be held on a regular basis in order to allow for broad and inclusive debates and give every individual a chance to have their voice heard. This would also be a way for new campaigns to get involved as a step to being accepted into the campaign and gaining a seat on the delegate council.

Linking workplace and community struggles

The cuts are not just an attack on workers within their workplaces, but an attack on all working class people regardless of employment status. Likewise, the means to fight back do not lie exclusively with workers taking strike action. Occupations and economic blockades, for instance, can have as much of an economic impact as strikes and no one form of direct action should be given preference over any other. All struggles should be linked and all actions supported through practical solidarity.

Keep party politics out of it

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties are in government, dictating the present cuts. But this is just an escalation of cuts we have seen over the past thirty years through Labour and Tory administrations. On the council, the Greens are complicit with Labour and the Liberal Democrats in putting government cuts into practice. The closer they get to power, and balancing the books of capitalism, the more parties accept the need for cuts.

As a working class movement, any anti-cuts campaign across Liverpool should be aiming to build on the basis of class interest, **NOT** political affiliation. We would therefore argue against party politics forming part of this campaign. If people or groups wish to promote the vote for any given party or electoral coalition, they should be free to do so – on their own backs. The purpose of a specific anti-cuts campaign should be to coordinate and connect our struggles, to offer practical solidarity to actions that working class people opposing the cuts take, **NOT** to subsidise anybody's bid for political power.

Liverpool Solidarity Federation argues that any anti-cuts campaign interacts with political parties in only one way – **by taking action against those parties that are implementing the attacks on our workplaces and communities!**



Printed by the Liverpool local of the Solidarity Federation.

We are an anarcho-syndicalist group who believe that through class struggle, solidarity and direct action, working class people have the power to improve our lives and bring about radical social change.

Want to know more? Get in touch!

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