

## Strategy to Oppose Council Cuts

This branch committee reaffirms its support for the UNISON Northern and NTUC campaign to defend public services and in particular:

- 1) Establishing a regional public services alliance under the umbrella of NTUC and affiliates to develop and support a regional campaign.
- 2) Building and supporting local coalitions bringing together trade unions; community, voluntary and faith organizations.
- 3) Developing and promoting an alternative economic agenda and countering the myths used by the government and its supporters to justify the cuts and privatization programme of the coalition government.
- 4) Developing a political strategy to engage with councilors, the political groups in Local Government, MP's and political parties to win support for an alternative agenda.

This Branch fully supports the programme of activity developed by the NPSA:

- Reclaim the night event 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010
- Regional rally in Redcar 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- A Local Government conference the New Year
- A national demonstration on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011
- Development of a manifesto and campaign for the local elections in May 2011
- A 2 day forum in Spring 2011 – Building resistance to the neoliberal agenda

This branch notes the initial STEP proposals released by the Council in relation to CXO and E&R Directorates and the intention to release the remaining STEP proposals after the 7<sup>th</sup> December. The branch will develop a strategy promoting an alternative economic agenda, developing a positive negotiating agenda with members and campaigning in workplaces, for the employer to support.

This Branch agrees to a workplace strategy that builds on the motion agreed at November's branch committee and includes the following actions:

1. Consultation meetings with workplace reps in each directorate to agree initial responses and coordinate future directorate specific meetings.
2. A series of mass workplace meetings in the Civic Centre and Springfield in the week after the proposals are released in December.
3. Agree and distribute a series of communications to members and the press outlining our opposition to the proposed Council cuts and our alternative view.

Further, the branch agrees to publicise and support local campaigns in the region against proposed cuts by individual Councils.

Finally the branch congratulates the thousands of students in Newcastle, regionally and nationally who took part in the day of action on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November.