

1795 No to Norfolk County Council Cuts passed 19 November 2015

Proposer: L Rudd (PostgraduateSU Committee)

Seconder: L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

Union Notes:

- 1) Norfolk County Council have recently announced plans to make £111m worth of cuts over 3 years.
- 2) This constitutes around 25% of its annual budget.
- 3) This is across all departments – including the fire and rescue service, adult and children's social services.
- 4) The cuts are a consequence of a cut in the grant received from central government.
- 5) The union has existing policy opposing the government's austerity programme, and 'No to Austerity' is one of the union's priority campaigns for the year.

Union Believes:

- 1) That austerity is ideological attack upon some of the poorest in our society.
- 2) As recently stated by 40 leading economists, cutting government investment is economically illiterate because it prevents growth, innovation and productivity increases, which will over time increase national debt due to lower tax receipts.¹
- 3) That increasing child poverty and cutting support for the most vulnerable is morally unjustifiable.
- 4) Students could also be adversely affected – for example cuts to the fire and rescue service could have a considerable impact on student safety, and cuts to the arts services, records office, and museums services will harm the cultural fabric of the city and cut off many graduate prospects for students.
- 5) That Norfolk County Council has a responsibility to resist cuts and protect some of Norfolk's most vulnerable citizens.

Union Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the Student Officer Committee to arrange a meeting with the leader of Norfolk County Council, George Nobbs, to express our concerns about the impact of the cuts on students and the wider community.
- 2) To mandate the Student Officer Committee to write an open letter to the press condemning the cuts and calling on the council to reconsider its budget proposals.

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/aug/23/jeremy-corbyns-opposition-to-austerity-is-actually-mainstream-economics>

- 3) To work with allies such as the Norfolk People's Assembly in campaigning, lobbying and taking action against county council cuts.