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making the case
for the alternative

Austerity isn't working

Hundreds of thousands of jobs are being cut and the public services that we all rely upon are being needlessly sacrificed for a failed economic plan which is actually making the economy worse not better.

The Tory/Lib Dem coalition's cuts have made the economy contract, not grow. Now the government will have to borrow billions more to cover the cost of increased unemployment and to make up for falling tax revenues.

Austerity is hurting our economy – and our communities.

What's happening?

- The UK has entered into a double dip recession for the first time since the 1970s.
- We've lost hundreds of children's centres, libraries, care services, police stations, colleges and other vital services with 80% of the planned cuts yet to come.
- It is predicted that the total number of public sector job losses will reach 800,000.
- Unemployment remains above 2.5million – and many new jobs being created are part-time or temporary. Women and young people are the worst affected.
- Falling pay is squeezing our living standards and hurting local economies. We are living through the longest period of no growth in (average) living standards since records began in 1961.
- The top 1% of the population have seen a 50% increase in their income over recent years, while the share of income going to those on low to middle incomes has shrunk – inequality is on the increase.

- Attempts to cut costs in the public sector are leading to a huge wave of outsourcing and the imposition of reduced terms and conditions on those delivering public services.

What needs to change?

We need a plan for jobs and growth that works for ordinary people and for our economy, including:

- rising pay in both the public and the private sector to boost consumer confidence and rebalance the economy
- a freeze on cuts to services and jobs
- a living wage across the public services to provide a benchmark
- reversing cuts to working tax credits and other benefit changes which have reduced the income of working families
- measures to tackle unfairness – closing the gender gap and tackling excessive pay at the top
- establish a state investment bank to fund the new infrastructure that our country needs for the future
- UNISON has an alternative budget that outlines significant savings the government could make without destroying jobs or growth – find out more by visiting unison.org.uk/acrobat/18887.pdf

What can you do?

1. Talk about these issues to your friends, family, co-workers and neighbours
2. Do something about it – march with UNISON on 20 October for a future that works.
3. Get one person to join us – Get your co-workers to strengthen our campaign by joining UNISON.