

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Hundreds expected to march through Woking against austerity

Date: Saturday 15th December

Time: from 11am

Place: Assemble outside Woking Borough Council Offices

Save Our Services in Surrey, supported by the Surrey Fire Brigades Union (FBU), Railworkers Union (RMT) and UNISON, the public sector union, have called for a major display of public anger against Tory austerity in Surrey and beyond.

Already cuts in public services have compromised public safety – fire services have been cut to the bone. Closures of fire stations are still planned. The proposed removal of guards from our trains is yet another example of a callous disregard for public safety. Local Health Services have been cut.

The scale of local authority cuts across all services has already been disastrous yet Surrey County Council are now consulting on millions of pounds of further cuts in Childrens Centres, Waste Management, Libraries, Concessionary Bus Fares and Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND).

Austerity is not a necessity – it is a political choice. Our councillors should be standing up to the government and saying NO. We cannot take any more cuts. We need a reversal of the cuts and a massive injection of public funding to restore our much-needed public services. The outgoing council leader even said in his speech this month, that this government has to take responsibility for taking money away from local authorities and the current state of public services.

We will have speakers at the rally in Jubilee Square from the trade unions involved in organising the event (FBU, RMT, UNISON) and county councillors from the Labour Party, Green Party and the independent Residents Groups as well as the Socialist Party and Save Our Services in Surrey. The call will be for an immediate general election and an end to austerity.

We call on anyone concerned about the state of our public services and who is willing to help fight back against austerity to join us.

This will be a peaceful, family-oriented event. We will gather outside Woking BC Offices and march around the mainly pedestrian areas to Jubilee Square for the speeches. Bring home-made banners and placards and be ready to make some noise.

For further information contact:

Paul Couchman (Secretary of Save Our Services in Surrey) [paulcouchmansp@gmail.com](mailto:paulcouchmansp@gmail.com) 07834468135. Also Surrey County UNISON Branch Secretary and Socialist Party local organiser.