

Vote Hart - Croydon North!

**VOTE
HART
TUSC**



Glen Hart, the TUSC candidate for Croydon North, has lived all his life in Thornton Heath. He is an active trade unionist in the Rail and Maritime Trades Union (RMT), and currently is a station supervisor. Glen is married with 3 children.

He is a socialist. One of his earliest political recollections is participating in the demonstrations against the Tories' hated Poll Tax in the early 1990s. "I am standing for TUSC", he says, "because I want to give the

people of North Croydon a *real* choice. The careerist mainstream candidates offer the same diet of austerity, and cuts in public services. If elected, I will be a workers' MP on a workers' wage. I will not take the fat salary and lavish expenses and benefits - I will stay in touch with my constituents!"

The Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition

- **No to Austerity!**
- **Yes to £10 an hour minimum wage!**
- **Yes to decent jobs and public services!**
- **Yes to truly affordable houses and rent controls!**

The pro-establishment parties seem determined to create a society geared to give greatest benefit to tax-avoiding corporations and to the very wealthiest individuals. For the rest of us, this means a society of low wages, zero hour contracts, high rents and mortgages; privatised health care and education; and privatised utilities - all run for the profit of shareholders, at our expense.

It is an outrage that the richest one percent of the UK population have as much wealth as the poorest 55% combined! TUSC policies will make sure the country's wealth is deployed in the interests of the vast majority - those who *create* the wealth, not in the tiny minority who *own* it.

Unfortunately, "One Nation Labour" has turned its back on working people. Its leaders says repeatedly that if elected they will in the main continue the austerity policies of the Tory/Liberal government.

For its part, UKIP pretends to be "anti-establishment". But it is led and financed by millionaires! It sows division and conflict to divert attention from the *real* causes of unemployment, bad housing and low wages. Why otherwise would the corporate media give it so much free publicity?

TUSC policies arise from the long and valiant history of the labour and trade union movement.

Workers and young people, struggling for a decent life, need a party that will honestly represent them, and provide political leadership. Working people need a party that will fight as hard for *them* as the establishment parties fight for the richest!

That's TUSC! Our policies are for democratic socialism - a society for the many, not the few.

Our local Facebook page is - [Facebook.com/SuttonandCroydonTUSC](https://www.facebook.com/SuttonandCroydonTUSC)
Our local email address is - SuttonCroydonTUSC@gmail.com
The national TUSC Website is - TUSC.org.uk

If I'm elected, these will be my top ten priorities -

1. Tackling Low Pay and the cost of Living

I will call for a national **£10 a hour minimum wage and the abolition of zero-hour contracts**, with no exceptions.

It is not possible to live a decent life with daily uncertainty and low wages - worrying about bills, rent, children's needs, etc. With a £10 an hour minimum the lives of millions would be transformed.

Most of the rest of society would feel the improvement too! The extra money in people's pockets would go straight back into the economy, into local shops and businesses.

2. Real Jobs, Real Work

Unemployment is a criminal waste of human skills and potential. I will call for consultation with trade unions, community organisations and others, to draw up **an ambitious and urgent public investment plan for the economy** - focusing in particular, on housing, infrastructure, hospitals and education.

I will demand an immediate resumption in meaningful, full-time, paid apprenticeships for young people.

3. The Local Community

I will fight racism and all the other forms of "Divide and Rule" - one of the oldest tricks in the book of those hanging desperately onto power. Communities united in human solidarity, however, can defend themselves against racism and violence and achieve unheard of improvements.

I will press for all public services to take into account the expressed preferences and priorities of communities. Why should government, especially local government, NOT be guided by their wishes?

Mainstream parties pay lip service to this. For them, the main purpose of communities is to help share out the **cuts** in local services! Some councils actually ask their residents to help decide where and how the cuts should be implemented!

I say, let communities share **wealth** - not poverty!

4. Tackling the Housing Crisis

I will call for the building of truly affordable, energy efficient homes, and **in sufficient numbers** to end waiting lists and homelessness.

I will demand that councils start **controlling rents**, and **cap them at an affordable rate**. They would also be required to monitor and control **housing quality** - to end slum landlords. Councils must bring housing associations back under their control. And the bedroom tax must be abolished immediately!

5. No to Privatisation; Yes to Public Services

I will demand the renationalisation and democratic control of the fragmented railway and bus services; and also the utilities industries and Royal Mail.

These industries should be organised nationally for maximum efficiency - and managed, under democratic control, as **public services**.

Utility bills & travel expenses could then be lowered for everybody. And why not cap utility bills for pensioners at a specially low, fixed monthly rate? - so they need never worry again about winter bills!

6. Progressive Taxation

I will demand strong measures to **halt corporate tax evasion** and also that of "High Net Worth" individuals!

TUSC is for progressive and *fair* taxation! Tax avoidance and evasion causes the massive "tax gap" which the rest of us have to fill - they pay less tax, *consequently we must pay more!*

7. Defending the NHS - Health before Wealth!

I will demand the **reversal of NHS privatisation!** The outsourced services must be re-integrated into the Health Service. There must be an immediate halt to closures and downgrading of A&E and other wards.

Privatisation massively increases the cost of the NHS - because of the need to cover profits and contract bidding expenses. It also increases the complexity, and therefore the cost, of *managing* the service.

The ultimate aim of privatisation, in our view, is to end universal free health care - and adopt a three-tier system. That is, private healthcare for the richest; medical insurance cover for those who can afford it; and rock-bottom public provision for the rest.

I will call for an end to "tick-box" performance measurement, and for a building programme of *local community hospitals* - after an accident, who wants to travel miles for treatment!

8. Free education for all!

If we allow its privatisation, a good education will depend entirely on your income! I will demand that

education be placed under the direct, and democratic control of local councils.

Large class size is the biggest single impediment to a good education. I will push for an *immediate* reduction to 30 children per classroom, with rapid progression to 20.

I will call for an end to so-called “academies” and “free schools”. ALL schools shall be excellent, state-funded places of learning and enjoyment.

I will call for an end to bureaucratic “performance related pay”; and an end to tuition fees. I will also call for an end to “public school” privileges - such as their “charitable” status - which helps reduce their tax bills.

Schools and colleges are not “education factories”. Education is not a “conveyor belt” process. We will put an end to that culture.

9. Protecting the Environment

TUSC supports deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions - otherwise climate change, caused mainly by big business, will destroy the planet.

I will press for investment in renewable energy - publicly-owned and controlled; and for urgent moves towards sustainable, low-pollution industry, and farming.

Goods should be designed for reuse and recycling - not with built-in obsolescence aimed at maximizing sales.

The productive capacity of major industry and commerce should be democratically planned, so the needs of people and the living environment come first.

Big business exploits the environment in much the same way as it exploits labour! The result for both is disastrous.

10. Clean Politics

Mainstream politics today truly deserves the contempt heaped on it. Many people think politics is a game for the rich. At the moment, **it is!** But we will stop that. Politics affects every aspect of our lives. We will make sure it is put back in the reach of everyone - under the watchful eye of the majority of working and middle class people.

I will be standing as a workers' MP on a worker's wage. I will not lose contact with the people I represent. I will not disappear into the sleazy, corrupted environment of the well-paid, wined, dined and entwined Palace of Westminster.

There will be full openness and total transparency over **all** our political expenditure and income. There will be democratic labour movement control over all our expenses.

How will we pay for our ambitious programme?

There is a great deal of wealth and potential in the UK. But most of it is in the hands of a tiny number of people and corporations. This is capital lying idle which could be mobilised for the benefit of all.

For example, the Financial Times reported recently that, “**Companies are sitting on record levels of cash**”. In 2008, the biggest thousand companies worldwide (many of them in the UK), had nearly \$2 trillion in cash. However, “*by the end of 2012, that had jumped 62% to \$3.2 trillion ...*”. That’s more than £2,000 million - more than is produced by the entire UK in a year!

Furthermore, if the utilities and the other large privatised companies were brought back into the public sector, their profits (which then would be public sector income) could go a very long way towards paying for our programme. In 2014 for example, the water utilities alone **made £2 billion in profits** (whilst paying hardly any tax)!

And some privatised companies still require huge public subsidies. The railway companies, for example, are costing the taxpayer very much more today than they did when they were part of British Rail! Renationalisation would save the taxpayer very many £ millions.

Finally, many £ billions of taxes goes uncollected, avoided and evaded. The PCS union estimates this at around **£120 billion a year**. This is about the same figure as the NHS’s annual budget...!

When the banks were in trouble, New Labour found around £350 billion, almost overnight, to bail them out. ***There are many and varied ways of creating new wealth, and also for mobilising existing wealth that is lying idle. We will do that. Not for the benefit of banks and the very richest, but for working people!***