

ANTI CUTS NETWORK Briefing No 1 Summary of Newcastle City Council Cuts

Overview

Newcastle City Council are cutting £100 million from local services. Last year they spent approximately £266 million. So this is over a third cuts.

Newcastle City Council were proposing to make over £90 million of cuts over three years. Since the announcement on 20 November 2012, the Tory Local Government minister has rewarded Newcastle City Council for proposing to implement these cuts with another £7 million pounds of cuts to make. This is what being reasonable and passing on cuts has done for Labour Councils, more cuts.

Based on the £90 million cuts, proposals include:

- closure of 11 out of 18 libraries (with Walker library relocating to the Lightfoot Sports Centre)
- closure of all play centres and all youth centres
- closing or selling city baths and city halls
- closing or selling most pools and sports centres in the city
- closing Cheviot View and Castle Dene short break and residential care units for disabled children, young people and adults
- cuts of all funding to arts and cultural organizations
- 1336 full time equivalent (fte) jobs – probably 1500 people sacked over three years by the council and more by voluntary organizations and arts organizations due to funding cuts
- cuts to street, park and neighbourhood services to your communities
- increases to charges to residents (like bereavement service, parking including local residents parking schemes)
- Sure Start services to families and pre-school children cuts by over 10% but 70% cuts proposed over three years.

Many council services are already run in partnership with community groups, voluntary sector and private sector. Not all job cuts will be carried out by the council, but those directly employed by the council will be cut in year one, with 730 full time equivalent (fte) jobs going by April 2013, i.e. probably 800 or more people sacked before Easter.

Even if these job cuts are made up of some volunteers, who choose to retire early, or do not want to continue working in a project which cannot deliver the services people need, this will still mean cuts to services and also no new jobs for those leaving school, college or university, or those thousands of unemployed desperate for a job or opportunity.

The councils are made up of a total of approximately 90 different proposals. To read them in full: Visit: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/budget-and-annual-report/draft-budget-proposals-2012-13>

Or see the summary on the next pages.

Consultations

You can also take part in online consultation here:

<http://www.letstalknewcastle.co.uk/consultations/index/63>

Or you can right to or email the council and ask for more information

Email them at letstalk@newcastle.gov.uk

Write to: Let's talk, Room 161, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 2BN

Or go to the consultation events:

- Monday 3 December 2012, 6.30 - 8.30 pm at West Denton Community Centre (formerly West Denton Association)
- Tuesday 4 December 2012, 6 - 8pm at the Carnegie Building in Benwell
- Wednesday 5 December 2012, 6 – 8pm at Gosforth Civic Hall
- Thursday 10 January 2013, 1.30 - 3.30pm at the Civic Centre
- Saturday 12 January 2013, 1 – 3pm at the Walker Activity Dome.

Also see Anti Cuts Network Briefing Number 2 – councilor contact details, ward surgeries and ward committees for how to contact your own councilors

Or contact your councilor:

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/councillors>

Summary of specific cuts

- Crisis response: services to vulnerable and risk of homelessness debt etc I.e. Housing and Welfare rights
- Over £2 million cut over 2 years. 12 fte in year one
- Neighbourhoods and communities: local services incl. street cleaning; litter; green spaces and parks; grass cutting
- £7.5 million over 3 years. 200 fte jobs 113 in year one
- Roads and pavements
- £2.3 million over 2 years. 3 jobs
- 4. Bin collection: move to fortnightly collection
- £1 million plus over 3 years. 21 jobs, 18 in year one
- 5. Library closures: close 11 libraries building, but relocate on into different building
- 24 fte in year one then more in year three
- 6. Close leisure centres and pools and city hall
- Some to be sold/privatised, some to be closed
- Over 100 fte jobs
- 7. Arts funding - knock on effect of jobs in arts sector incl jobs in council arts team
- Nearly £2 million over three years
- 8. Tyne and wear museums and galleries like Great North/ Hancock, Laing, Discovery
- Nearly £1 million over 3 years, including 23 fte jobs
- 9. Services to customers (customer service, it,
- Nearly 50 jobs in next few years
- 10. Communities: ward budget; resident and community group funding
- £1.5 million, 24 fte jobs
- 11. Closing buildings: 13 buildings £2 million saving, but knock on effect
- Bereavement services: increase fees £250,000
- Parking incl residents parking charges over £600,000
- Reduction in jobs in community safety - 12.5 fte
- School transport incl SEN. Cut this back to minimum
- Cut £500,000 over three years, cut 7.6 fte
- Support to children young people and schools: attendance, connexions, education psychology - 18 fte
- Social care.....
- Lots and lots of different cuts, 100s of jobs and services (more detail to follow)
- Play and youth 50 fte jobs.. More like 60 or 70 people
- Closing all play and youth centres
- Sure start - £1million cut this year no close in centres though predictions of a number of jobs
- £4million proposed and closure of all but 3 centres in 2015
- Support services admin mgt. - hundreds of job cuts (more to follow)
- Apprenticeships - support less apprenticeships cut £500,000

Have you got time to read about the cuts and summarise the crucial ones to the public Documents here:

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/budget-and-annual-report/draft-budget-proposals-2012-13>