

ConDem cuts...

John Leech MP
Manchester Withington

“ **People want real change and the Liberal Democrats can deliver it; they won't be taken in by Labour's scaremongering about voting Lib Dem and getting a Tory government.**” John Leech's Blog - 15th April 2010

Despite campaigning against the Conservatives before the general election, John Leech, MP for Manchester Withington, is NOW in government with them.



The Liberal Democrats betrayed their election pledges of fairness for a share of power. This ConDem coalition has declared war on the public sector. Their plans will devastate the services people rely on and throw innocent, hardworking people onto the dole to pay for a mess the rich and greedy created. What happened to fairness? They haven't even bothered to consider alternatives to cuts.

Despite Lib Dems campaigning against a “Tory VAT bombshell” before the election the Lib Dems have supported an increase in VAT to 20%. This is a regressive tax that hits the poorest the hardest as a proportion of their income. John said, “*I didn't vote against the VAT rise because there isn't a credible alternative on offer*”. This is not true; £14.9 billion could be raised every year by using minimum tax rates to stop reliefs being used to disproportionately subsidise incomes above £100,000. This progressive alternative raises more money than the VAT increase and people don't starve on £100,000 a year salary.

In response to the budget John said, “*...it means that although everyone will share the burden, more of the burden is rightly on the shoulders of high earners*”. The truth is that the budget, in terms of lost services and income, hits the poorest 10% of households around seven times harder than the richest 10%.

John was one of the 157 MPs who before the election signed an early day motion calling for a Robin Hood Tax on banks which could raise between £30-£50 billion. A bank tax was also a Lib Dem manifesto pledge. The bank tax the ConDems have introduced is a pathetic gesture that raises around £2.5 billion. Banks will also benefit from cuts to corporation tax.

Before the election John said, “*...south Manchester needs an MP who will fight to protect local services, not simply stand by while cuts are being made*”. John was true to his word, he hasn't stood by. Unfortunately for the constituents in Manchester Withington he has been actively supporting and voting for massive cuts in public services.

...there is an alternative

See overleaf for details on what you can do to speak out against cuts.



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What YOU can do:

1 If you work in public services and you are not a member then **join UNISON** online today at www.unison.org.uk/join or call **0845 355 0845**.

2 Sign up to the **Million Voices campaign** at www.million-voices.org and add your voice.

I've
added
mine!

3 Contact your MP - John Leech:

Your MP is one of the people voting for these unfair and unnecessary cuts. If you are unhappy with the ConDem coalition, and believe as UNISON does that there is a fairer alternative, then you should make sure your MP knows about it. You can email or write to them and your MP will also hold regular surgeries in their constituency. You should contact the constituency office to find out when and where the next surgery is. Full contact details for your MP can be found below.

Constituency Office

8 Gawsorth Avenue,

Didsbury,

Manchester,

M20 5NF

Telephone – *0161 434 3334*

Email – *leechj@parliament.uk*

Website – *johnleechmp.wordpress.com*

House of Commons

House of Commons,

London,

SW1A 0AA

Telephone – *020 7219 8353*

Email – *leechj@parliament.uk*

Things to remember:

Include your full name and address so they know you live in their constituency. MPs need to know this.

Try to be polite at all times. Don't give them an excuse not to reply.

Points to raise: What do you like about public services? How will cuts affect you? Why do you think cuts are unfair? Why are bankers who caused the crisis are still paying themselves millions in bonuses?

Unsure if this is your MP? Then visit www.theyworkforyou.com to check.

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