

The Great Austerity Debate tour October 9th – November 10th 2018
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Suggestions taken from every audience for political and/or legal changes to underpin alternatives to austerity measures. Audiences were split into groups of 4-10.

Oxford – 9th October 2018, Arts at the Old Fire Station

Free travel for children & parents to school and children's centres
An end to means-tested benefits
A legal ending to Payday loans
Put a cap on the interest rate for lending
Nationalise key resources
Ban zero hours contracts
Ban privatisation of all essential services
Bring back rent controls
More regulation of financial markets

Norwich – 10th October 2018, Octagon Unitarian Chapel

Get the money from the tax dodgers
Get the rich to pay what they should
Make sure there's something in law to ensure that central services can't be cut
Repeal the law which makes county councillors personally responsible for their budget
Have a moral economy – regulate companies and enforce the payment of corporation tax
Abolish zero-hours contracts
Abolish 15-minute social care calls (ie. give more time to carers)
Create court-appointed advisors to replace bailiffs
Councils and communities to work together, and councils to work more together

Great Yarmouth – 11th October 2018, 1.30 performance, East Norfolk Sixth Form College

Everybody in social care should be legally offered volunteer mental health care
More money to support local communities
Restrictions on the amount of (payday/doorstep) loans you can get
Get rid of zero hours contracts
Local councils should offer free financial advice (or improve in areas that aren't strong enough)
Cover travel costs for children (and parent/carer) getting to/from childrens' centres/childcare settings
Better regulation of the banking system
Higher taxes for people on higher incomes – or encourage higher earners to stay in their country to pay tax here
A cap on interest on loans so that they can't go up past a certain amount





Create free childcare & more support for working parents for those with children aged 3 and under

People who work in care industries should get free childcare

Great Yarmouth – 11th October 2018, 7pm performance, East Norfolk Sixth Form College

Abolish zero hour contracts for the over-18s

Implement a national living wage

Regulate/stop door step lending

Make childcare a statutory requirement

Increase the basic rate of income tax

Ring-fence tax to provide necessary services

Implement a Basic Universal Income

Make it clearer, and more accessible, how our taxes are spent

Subsidise bus fares for families who use buses to take children to childcare

Hold central government accountable for the policy of contracting out public services

Stop privatisation

Compulsory education on debt & money for all young people

Councils to offer free face-to-face debt advice

Cheltenham – 12th October 2018, Bethesda Methodist Church

Be transparent that austerity is a political choice

Outlaw high percentage loans

No Universal Credit sanctions for mistakes by DWP

One Stop Shop for services

Abolish local authority council tax caps

Review zero hours contracts

Invest in education

Tighten Child Support laws

Enforce employment regulations

Reduce wages of senior public officials

Introduce a law against instant dismissal

Close tax loopholes

Encourage co-ops

Top up the Universal Credit System

Have a 2nd referendum on Brexit

Chesterfield, 16th October 2018 – Central Library

Scrap the 50% threshold on industrial action by Trade Unions

Universal Basic Income for all citizens

Scrap sanctions for universal credit

Ban zero-hours contracts

Ban (or limit) agency work

Re-nationalise care services

Scrap council cuts



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Raise corporation tax – take it from the top 1% and redistribute it
Bring back the “closed shop” for trade unions

Shirebrook, 17th October 2018 – Holy Trinity Church

End zero-hours contracts
Stop central government funding for local services – fund them from local taxes
Bring services such as care back into public ownership
Universal Basic Income for every citizen
Have free/affordable childcare
More efficient benefits system, with a complete overhaul and no sanctions
Central government to balance out and put more money into areas more in need – to create a fairer and more even-handed system of local council funding

Dronfield, 19th October 2018 – Peel Centre

Ban zero-hours contracts
Childcare that’s advantageous to working parents
Mandatory voting and mandatory education on voting/democracy
Cap interest rates charged by loan companies
More transparency over who owns loan companies
Force absent fathers to pay childcare
Stop Universal Credit
Better resources needed for local councils
Stop advertisements for loan companies on TV and in print
End private contracting of social care
Cap on housing prices and build more affordable social housing
Improve mental health provision
Vote for Jeremy Corbyn
Make it clear that austerity is a choice

Great Yarmouth, 23rd October 2018 – Christchurch

End zero-hours contracts
Institute a living wage
Make sure the big corporations pay their tax
Repeal the 2012 Social Care Act
Reform/Scrap Universal Credit
Individual care plans for each social care patient – service worked out on a case-by-case basis
Re-nationalise care

Peterborough, 24th October 2018 – The Undercroft

A mandatory living wage which means you can pay your rent, bills and have a good quality of life
Outlaw loan sharks
Cap the interest rates on loans – link it to the Bank of England base rate



Stop zero-hours contracts

Clear steps for help around personal debt – financial advice & emotional support. Financial education should be mandatory for all children

Free access to internet in all councils – accessed in library or any open community space

Local tax ring-fenced for services for that community

Peterborough, 25th October 2018 – The Undercroft

Ring fence social care funds, to include it as one of the core services provided by government

Stop council cuts

Increase taxes for the rich

Clamp down on tax avoidance

Make it possible for councils to increase council tax beyond the 2% limit

Local councils to charge business rates to corporations

Listen

Fluidity of funding based on NEED

A challenge to the notion that austerity is effective

Create a more progressive taxation system

Newmarket, 27th October 2018 – Turner Hall

Stop Universal Credit sanctions

Transparency on decision making around council cuts

Reinstate legal aid – or create another advocacy organisation

Funding local organisations to support families

Financial support/incentives for wider family support

DWP take financial responsibility for their mistakes

More central funding for social care

Education – learn finance skills.

Slough, 30th October 2018 – The Curve

Funding (backed by Government) for loans

Free local travel for single mothers, using a travelcard

Increase in the funding rate for Childrens' Centres and nurseries

Buses specifically for parents taking children to childrens' centres

More money for single parents (that increases with each child)

Means-tested child benefit

Any mistakes in Universal Credit must be paid by the person/organisation making the

mistake – so the DWP is held to account and sanctions are not incurred by the individual

Working single parents (working 16+ hours) should be entitled to 30 hours free childcare

Cambridge, 2nd November 2018 – Storey's Field Community Centre

Companies and organisations that are evading tax – make them pay

End zero-hour contracts

Raise taxes to provide a safety net



Raise taxes for the rich

Hypothecated taxes – eg. ring-fencing them to fund social care

Organise social care cooperatives which are self-regulated, which are run by the carers

High interest loans should be banned. Make them illegal

Reduce corporate welfare – spend that money on social care

All public sector contracts must be unionised

Local decision-making i.e. let local councils decide rates and have the power to raise money in their area

Raise the minimum wage

Kettering, 3rd November 2018 – Kettering Arts Centre @ St Andrew's Church

Parish Councils to be able to raise precept

Local councils should be able to raise tax more than 2% without having to have a referendum

Ensure councils are responsive to the people at the lower end of the economy

Reduce National Insurance Payments

Increase charges to users of council services in an attempt to force people to push back in anger and get Government to change

Stop councils being allowed to close Childrens' Centres – ring-fence this funding

Ensure the grant per head is equal around the country

Implement a Universal Income

Ban Zero-hours contracts

Regulate payday loan industry

Fund Credit Unions

Government to invest in social infrastructure with a living wage

Fair funding for schools

Government to allocate same resources to chasing tax evaders as they do to chasing 'welfare cheats'

Worcester, 7th November 2018 – Warndon Community Hub

Free bus travel when you're on benefits

End zero-hours contracts or retain them as a CHOICE for people who want them. You have to be legally offered a full, set-hours contract as well as a zero-hours contract. Improve flexible working.

Increase pay for carers and a higher living wage for all

Unionise work forces

Legal cap on interest rates for loans

A helpline for all people for debt advice

Slow down the rate at which Universal Credit overpayments are paid back

Long contracts for private providers of care services

Stop outsourcing public services

Nursery provision at all schools

Increase public spending

Better to break the law than break the poor



Whitworth (nr Rochdale), 8th November 2018 – Library

Stop zero-hours contracts

Stop payday loans – ensure people won't be preyed upon

National safeguarding of policies for the longterm that doesn't change when the Government changes

Reinstate Sure Start with free bus travel for parents/carers to get there

Free child and nursery care

Regulate payday loans (much lower interest rates)

Small-scale local initiatives that come from the people, outside of government regulation

Sort out Universal Credit – make DWP liable for the mistakes, not the individual recipients

Government **MUST** consult with the people who experience economic hardship when making policy on these issues

Halton (nr Lancaster), 9th November 2018 – Halton Mill

Pay attention to modern monetary theory

Local councils to be able to raise their own taxes

Create an independent commission to set standards of care

Rationalise all social care services

Create kinder ways of lending money

Reprioritise public spending. Make transparent the impact of austerity

Re-allocate military spending towards social care

Blackburn, 10th November 2018 – The Bureau

Close tax loopholes for big businesses

Cap on loan interest rates

Increase VAT

Means test benefits that OAPs get

Increase personal tax

End zero-hours contracts

Appropriate distribution of public funds around the country – ie. redistribute wealth where needed

Universal Basic Income

Allow asylum seekers to work in paid employment

Ensure we do not bail out banks again

Cap on private rental markets – the rent charged should be fair in relation to the quality of the rental property

