

# MARCH TO SAVE



# OUR SERVICES

**Saturday 23 July 2016**

- Our libraries are under attack
- There are not enough school places
- Private companies are putting profit before care of the elderly and disabled
- £19 million cuts in 2016/17
- Council tax has risen by nearly 4%

**Assemble Norman Park, Hayes Lane,  
Bromley BR2 9EF at 11am**



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# BROMLEY UNITE: March with us to stop the cuts to local services

## Saturday 23 July 2016

### Families are paying more and getting less

Bromley residents are already paying the highest council tax in London. Earlier this year, the council decided to raise council tax by nearly 4%. And this comes at the same time as a budget plan that will see cuts of £19 million to local services in the region.

Local residents have already made their feelings clear about what services they want. The council have undertaken two public consultation exercises into the future of our much loved library service. They want to hand over six of our libraries to volunteers and the rest over to a private company. This will see the end of the library service as we know it. That is why when asked the question "Do you agree that in light of the need to make £60 million in savings over the next four years, the councils plans for libraries should go ahead?" over 80% of respondents said that they did not agree. The council got the same response in two consultation exercises that it ran itself – and it got this response despite obvious bias in the way it ran the exercise.

But it's not only libraries that are in danger. Private companies whose primary objective is to make a profit are increasingly taking over services for the care of the elderly and disabled. The council's mission to become a commissioning service means that eventually all services will be handed over to private companies. Over 25% of care homes inspected in Bromley require

improvement. Grants to charitable organisations are being cut. There are not enough school places.

### There is an alternative

The council has over £300 million in reserves and a running surplus of £12 million. Yet the council prefer to use its money on property speculation, not public services. If the council truly needs more money from government to run services, it should demand it. Bromley council also has the power to borrow funds at very competitive rates. In the meantime, it can use its huge reserves to keep services running while keeping council tax down.

This is why we are marching. Unite has led a long running campaign to save our libraries. Now, more than ever, we must stand united and strong to save our services. If we want to keep them, we have to fight for them.

### Join the Bromley march – 23 July

Unite is urging people to come together and fight to save our libraries and local services. Please join us on Saturday 23 July at 11am. For further details contact Onay Kasab on 07771818637

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**Our Libraries**

**Our Services**

**Our Bromley**

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