

This Regional Local Government Committee:

Expresses our anger and concern at the level of cuts in FE funding of up to 25%.

We recognise that this will have a dramatic impact on adult learning, and 16 –18 year old provision. It removes opportunity for working class people, especially those who have already been let down by the education system.

This level of cuts is particularly unjustified when there is a huge need for retraining to enable working people to cope with the effects of the recession.

It also means that our members in Colleges are facing the prospect of significant job losses and the likelihood of compulsory redundancies.

We recognise the need for a united campaign to defend FE, and the jobs of our members within the sector.

We welcome moves by the UCU to create a co-ordinated campaign across London Colleges.

We note that UCU has written to principals across London asking for guarantees of No Compulsory Redundancy, failing which they will regard themselves as in a Trade Dispute. We call upon UNISON to also adopt this approach wherever our members agree to it in Colleges.

We further note that UCU is working toward the possibility of taking co-ordinated industrial action in FE before the General Election to ensure that the fight against cuts in the sector becomes an issue in the general and local elections, and that lecturers and support staff are not left to fight the effects of the cuts college by college.

We agree:

- To seek to build a joint campaign with UCU, students and community organisations to oppose the cuts in funding
- To support initiatives (such as the London Wide march called by UCU for 20 March)

To support any calls from our members in FE Colleges to be balloted to enable them to take part in such co-ordinated action.