**The ‘STAND UP TO AUSTERITY SHOW’ or**

**‘Let’s declare Brighton & Hove an Anti Austerity Zone’**

*Brighton & Hove has long been known for the strength of its Trades Council and more recently for the energy of its People’s Assembly. The city has gained national notoriety for university occupations, the successful ‘No to Hove Park Academy’ campaign and its remarkably influential ‘Defend the NHS’ campaign. The city can boast the only Green MP in the country (and a few more thousand votes were cast in the general election for other anti austerity candidates too). It can claim the only other constituency in the South East refusing to elect a Tory. The city’s local campaigns and trade unions have a proud record of fighting all forms of intolerance and injustice, defending people on benefits, taking action over low pay, campaigning together with those suffering most from the cruel Austerity measures of this government. And the city has a reputation for citizens who combine arts with radical politics into events like the innovative ‘Vocal Opposition’ event, films like ‘Secret City’ or performances such as ‘Making a Drama out of a Crisis’.*

**Trade union members and supporters of Defend the NHS, the People’s Assembly, Trades Council and the Campaign for Education in Brighton & Hove and community activists and people involved in radical arts like the Hullabaloo Quire have been discussing bringing together citizens from the breadth and depth of the city’s opposition to austerity in a huge**

***Stand up to Austerity Event***

 **(to be held in the late autumn). We want to invite citizens from across the range of interests and ideas from the city to think through what an event attracting and involving hundreds of citizens across the city might look like. We want to create an event for those who want to know more, those who want to resist and those who want to find new ways of showing their opposition to austerity.**

***SUGGESTIONS FOR THE EVENT SO FAR INCLUDE:***

* ***A huge event with national anti austerity and radical speakers and performers.***
* ***A half day festival to engage citizens in anti austerity workshops and performance.***
* ***A ‘Question Time’ with activists from campaigns against privatisation & austerity.***
* ***Commissioning a short film about how communities and campaigns in Brighton & Hove are resisting austerity and defending their rights. This film could be shown at the event and/or include footage from the event.***
* ***Local anti austerity meetings and events organised in different parts of the city.***
* ***Lectures and discussions on the real reasons for austerity and how we can fight back.***

**We want to involve every campaign, activist group and trade union in the city. We’re going to hold an open meeting on July 29th to begin plan this event (email** **standuptoausterity@gmail.com** **for details of the time and venue).**

**We need your ideas to make this event happen. Please come and join us.**