

34 Pioneer House
46 Britannia St
London WC1X 9JH

9th October 2011

Dear Branch Secretary,

Request for nomination for the Female Local Government NEC Seat

I am writing to ask you to put this request for nomination to the vacant Local Government Female NEC seat to your branch.

This by-election comes at a vital time for UNISON and the wider Trade Union movement.

The Con Dem Government have already slashed jobs and services and frozen our pay causing untold desperation. Now they are after our pensions.

The possibility of over 3 million public sector workers striking together holds out the possibility not just of protecting our pensions but of turning back the Con Dem's Austerity programme based on making ordinary people pay for a crisis created by the bankers greed.

To do that we need strong and determined leadership willing to organize the extended coordinated industrial action and to build on the strong alliances we are developing across the Trade Union movement and within our communities.

I have a record of building that kind of movement at a local level.

I am a longstanding union member – having worked in Housing for over 30 years – and am currently Convenor of Adult Social Care and the joint Branch Chair for Camden local government branch. I have been involved in local services in different capacities – as a Governor of the Nursery school my children attended in the past, and now as a Trustee of our local community centre. We successfully fought off proposals to completely end our funding last year and proudly, we still offer services to the local community across the generations from infancy to old age.

Locally in Camden, we have built a coalition across unions, parties, and local community organisations (such as tenants' associations) to fight the cuts. We are therefore well placed to build on the positive cross union organization we already have, and is now in a good position to be building the biggest strike across all unions on November 30th.

I am not in the Labour Party, but I believe that we should work with all politicians who stand for and promote the policies of this union. That will include many Labour Councillors, MPs and constituent party members. However, I believe we should also be able to *criticise and oppose them*, not least through taking action, where we are being attacked and bearing the brunt of the cuts implemented by Labour councils.

Lastly I believe that in order to deal with the attacks we face it is essential to encourage the full involvement of all activists and members and to end attacks on union activists.

| Please consider nominating me to stand for the Local Government Female NEC. I am more than happy to come along to speak in your branch if invited, and answer any questions you may have for me.

Yours in solidarity,

Phoebe Watkins

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8th October 2011

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Dear Colleagues,

NEC By-Election - Local Government Women's Seat

I am writing to you in order to seek the nomination of your branch in the forthcoming by-election for the Local Government Women's seat, this has come about due to a sudden resignation. The official closing date for nominations is 18th November 2011; therefore could you please table this letter for consideration at your next branch committee meeting.

A strong voice for Local Government

I have previously held this seat for 12 years and believe that I was instrumental in ensuring that the views of Local Government members had been heard within the National Executive Council. It should be the views of the members that are expressed at NEC level, not the individual NEC member's views, as is often the case. I will continue to listen to members and try to carry their views forward on the NEC.

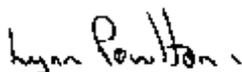
Fighting for jobs, pay and pensions

Since the coalition government came into power it is obvious that local government workers are expected to pay the price for a recession not of their making, but of a crisis caused by greedy bankers and speculators. Our members are facing unprecedented attacks on their jobs, pay and pensions, and they want UNISON to be there to help them with these challenges. I can assure you of my total commitment on the NEC to ensure local government branches receive the resources and support needed to campaign effectively in defence of our members.

I passionately believe in UNISON and all that it stands for and will fight to keep the union strong so that its voice will be heard when defending its member's rights in the difficult times to come. As a family support worker I am fully aware that women are bearing a disproportionate impact of local government cuts and privatisation both as council workers and as service users.

The period that is allowed for nominations for this election is from 10th October 2011 to 18th November 2011. To assist you in the process of completing the nomination form my RMS number is 407347, and I am standing for the Local Government Female seat. It then only requires you to enter your branch details and details of the meeting at which the nomination was agreed, and lastly the branch secretaries and chairperson's details and signatures, all completed in black ink. When completed please return to the Member Liaison Unit at UNISON centre, Euston Road.

Yours sincerely



Lynn Poulton