

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**PRESENT:** J Carden, C McGuinness, L Alderson, J Liepins-Hall, R Nelson, B Oliver, P Ball, G Brown, R Fenton, N Oliver, S Herron, N Proudlock, M Symington, A Watt, J Young, M Haddon, J Imhoof, J Horne, W Ndlovu, E Whitby, C McCardle, J Arnold, L Hardie, N Ramanandi, W Aitman, J Yugire, L Walker, I Mackintosh, P Robertson, P Gilroy, W Wilson, V Suddes, J Nicholson, E Wilson, M Wilkinson, N Nicholson, L Newton, L McGurk, M Henderson, S Loughrey  
A Hamilton - Chair

**1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

C Mullinder, G Burin, A Carson, S Hicks, J Dunlop, V Powell, R Clarke, H Ord, S Rounthwaite, J Kennett, L Hannon, C Armstrong, L Jackson, A Lamb, M Cunny, K Bensley, K Khan, B Turnbull, N Bone, D Muse, J Bird

PG gave a presentation on the HR package and the position of the Labour Council in comparison to Barry Rowland's blog - highlighting the shift in language from efficiency savings to cuts.

**2. Affiliations and Donations** - Agreed. Signatory changes also agreed.

**3. Budget 2012**

Directorate leads gave updates on the budget implications for posts in their areas. NR-E&R; LH-Admin & Children's Services; MS-Adults & Culture; PG-Chief Executive.

It was raised how we should monitor the workloads of staff left and whether we should do a staff survey. PG is also looking to improve communications with the possibility of having a small group that meets regularly to produce newsletters. A draft of the new branch Outlines newsletter was distributed for comments; the consensus was it needed more detail.

**Action – engage in consultation process, update the Outlines newsletter.**

**EINAs and PDIAs**

96 EINAs received, the PDIAs are currently unavailable. Trained assessors should get EINAs tomorrow. AH will be having a drop in session on Thursday. The first overall assessment meeting will be held next Monday and the final deadline for feedback on EINAs is 12:00pm on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**Action – Those receiving ENIAs to forward comments to AH by Friday.**

**4. Pensions Campaign**

PG thanked everybody for their contributions on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, and stressed that this is a fight for decent pensions for all. A discussion was held regarding where to go next. Suggestions -more focus on contribution increases; believe that unions as a whole lost the media battle; strike was about more than pensions; campaign needs to be linked in with other issues and struggles.

**5. Part Year Working**

Update given on Part Year Working. There was a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October where 200+ affected staff attended. The Council has been holding meetings but there is a concern that all staff have not been informed. Suggested a separate meeting should be held for kitchen staff.

**6. Branch Facility Time**

Facility time has been cut by 0.5fte by the Labour administration. An interim proposal for the branch office structure was recommended by PG which was passed 31 to 1.

**7. Branch Budget 2012**

PG presented plans for the branch budget moving forward to encourage activity in self-organised groups, with a dedicated budget for each. All spending decisions would still have to be agreed by treasurer / assistant treasurer. This was carried with 5 abstentions.

**8. Directorate Reports**

This was skipped as directorate leads gave updates under item 3.

**9. Health & Safety**

The roof at Palatine beds has now been fixed.

**10. Minutes for Confirmation - agreed**

**11. Any Other Business**

CM informed stewards that the monthly Newcastle PSA meeting will be brought forward due to the Christmas holidays.

**Action – CM to email staff once a new date has been confirmed.**

**12. Date of next meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 3.00pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre**