

**UNISON**  
**Newcastle City Branch**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**4<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**PRESENT:** K Bensely, S Hicks, M Wilkinson, E Robinson, J Shortt, A Stewart, L Patterson, J Yugire, L Kennedy, W Aitman, K Nesbitt, J Liepins-Hall, B Oliver, L Jackson, J Carden, E Whitby, J Horne, V Suddes, D Tree, N Oliver, J Nicholson, A Hamilton, J Reed, N Bone, T Car, P Gregory, E Wilson, D Gormley, C McArdle, N Ramanandi, P Gilroy(PG), L Hardie, M Dobson, E Robinson  
**In Attendance:** D Atkinson(DA), S Praszczalek

**APOLOGIES:** L Ashbridge, R Fenton, C Graham, D Muse, A Carson, T Cook, K McGuinness, E Thorp, J Bird, L Crosby

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

PG chaired meeting and apologies were noted.

**2. AFFILIATIONS, DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**Donations** – Newcastle Women’s Aid Xmas Appeal - £250 **AGREED**

**Correspondence** – MAP and UNISON Rochdale LG – donation thanks

**3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

Branch Committee 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 - **AGREED**

Matters Arising – None

Health & Safety – Minutes to be submitted December Branch Committee. Due to her working pattern H&S Officer would like to have this item moved up agenda. No issues at present.

Branch Education October 2013 – Noted

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Branch finances in healthy position. Any queries contact Branch Treasurer.

- Informed members’ Xmas party cancelled, poor ticket sales – austerity affecting everyone. Panto tickets still available. Discussed arranging a social function after December Branch Committee - **AGREED**

**5. BRANCH STRUCTURE**

The Branch Officer Structure Proposals paper had been circulated before meeting. PG explained old structure was not fit for purpose and changing structure would enable the branch to move forward. Any changes to be made would have to be submitted to a General Meeting in December and then approved at the AGM in February 2014.

Questions were taken from the floor re fair representation and proportionality; voting of branch convenors, concerns about democracy; why changes are necessary; timing of process; clarifying that the structure would consist of Treasurer, Chair, Secretary and one Assistant Secretary – Vote taken from the floor to move proposal forward:

**Accept: 19    Reject: 6    Abstentions: 4**

**Proposal Accepted**

**CVS Organiser Secondment**

This is a growth area - release initially for 6 months, paid through branch funds – **AGREED**

**6. BUDGET 2014/15**

Overall view given, informed budget meetings were now in calendars. Managers and UNISON have good reputation working together. 366 full time positions to be deleted – concern about redundancies. 2015 proposals will also be incorporated into this year’s budget. Next year there will be a new 3 year proposal – branch expecting it to be severe.

Concerns about future of Sure Start and statutory duty of council; need to put pressure on Labour councils to not accept cuts. Questions asked about directorate cuts, maximise voluntary redundancies, proposed changes to selection matrix re sickness issue – when will changes take effect? Will share information in December Outlines.

Formal Budget proposals will be published in January.

Leisure Asset Transfer – 4 facilities to transfer, commercially sensitive. NCC should implement TUPE; concern over terms and conditions; public do not see impact of asset transfer. Political aspect to this and also discussed running campaign not to accept changes.

CCS Review – Consultation process – some jobs deleted, new jobs with new structure – under T Durcan, Assistant Director Customers, Culture & Skills. Two briefings arranged for this week plus future weekly meetings – concerns about falling standards and what it means to the public.

**7. SCHOOLS' ORGANISER UPDATE**

L Ashbridge appointed – release from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

DA informed meeting 27 new members recruited from 20 schools.

**8. LGPS 2014**

Defer to December Branch Committee.

**9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING**

Bridges to Learning – Written report delivered.

ULF Inclusive Learning Project – Community Organiser on sick leave

**10. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCES**

Regional Conference report will be given December Branch Committee.

**11. DIRECTORATE REPORTS**

Issues covered earlier in meeting.

**12. BRANCH OFFICER REPORTS**

Distributed prior to meeting – any queries contact the branch office.

Disabled Members – Report distributed at meeting with update on Disabled Members Conference 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**13. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Discussed earlier in meeting.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- LG Pay Claim 2014/15 – NJC agreed £1 per hour increase - not yet submitted to employer.

- 'Worth It' campaign (pay issues) to be launched beginning of 2014 – workplace meetings to take place. Email PG if you would like to become and Pay Lead and be part of this group.

- Women's Conference February 2014 – 3 delegates registered including a low-paid worker from the CVS.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 3.00 pm, Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre.