

# Outlines



UNISON NEWCASTLE CITY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

May 2014

## UNISON Ballot and Election Special



UNISON members will be asked to vote in favour of taking strike action in July (10<sup>th</sup>), and a further 2 days in September, in a concerted effort to show the Local Government employers that we mean business and that UNISON members will not accept a pay offer that does nothing to begin restoring the 20% real loss in NJC pay value since 2010 and the effect falling pay has on members' future pensions.

**Don't let others decide for you, have your say on pay! Return your ballot paper, vote "YES" to strike action.**

Newcastle City Branch believes that the employer's pay offer is unacceptable, and that the only way to achieve a better offer is to take strike action, and it will take more than 1 day's action to convince the employer's that we are taking this year's pay campaign seriously. A significant turn out is important, everyone needs to return their ballot; **every vote is crucial**.

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Paul Gilroy  
Branch Secretary

## Countdown to Strike Action

Here is more detail on the timetable for our ballot and strike action:

**13 May:** letters of intent sent out to employers covered by the dispute telling them about the ballot.

**23 May:** ballot papers start to go out to members. Ballot materials will include a letter from the General Secretary explaining the reasons for the dispute.

It will take a few days for ballot papers to reach all members. Therefore our ballot helpline will open a week later.

**29 May:** UNISONdirect ballot helpline opens for members who have not received a ballot paper.

**18 June 12pm:** ballot helpline closes.

**23 June 10am:** ballot closes and results announced later that day.

**10 July:** if members vote 'Yes', the first one-day strike as part of a programme of strike action.

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## Local and European Elections

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, you have the opportunity to vote in the local and European elections, an opportunity to consider voting for candidates that support UNISON's principles and values.

Thursday is your chance to send a strong, clear message to the government and to the racists that we reject their policies.

We need to keep the Tories out of local government. But equally, we can't let the likes of UKIP spread their message of hate and fear and make the strides that the polls have predicted.

UKIP policies are not only bad for Britain and bad for Europe; they are bad for families, workers, community relations and our multi-cultural nation.

### UNISON asks members to vote in the European elections

The European elections are the biggest political date before the General Election. It is vital that UNISON members vote in these elections and stress how important keeping our Public Services public is.

The European elections of 22<sup>nd</sup> May give the North East a voice in Europe. This is our chance to determine who should represent us in the European Parliament. Europe is a growing influence in all our lives through trade, legislation and workers' rights. It is therefore of great importance that UNISON members use their vote and make their voices heard.

**UNISON believes in democracy and knows that without the participation of its members at the ballot box, the voice of public services will not be heard.**

## TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UKIP

Nigel Farage wants everyone to think he is a maverick, in touch with ordinary people and anti-establishment. He is very much part of the elite in the UK - educated at a top private school, super-rich, ex-Tory and ex-City Broker.

It's important to know what UKIP really think if they are standing to represent us in Europe, Parliament and on councils up and down the country.

1. UKIP are a boss's party in favour of tax cuts for the rich. They want billionaires to pay the same taxes as low paid workers. We would get a tax rise, and the rich would get tax cuts. They would axe public services, reduce state pensions, funding to schools and colleges.
2. Nigel Farage claimed £2 million expenses from Europe for the last 4 years. He registered an off shore Trust Fund to avoid paying taxes
3. National Health Service: UKIP want this fully opened up to the market, they are against public funded and run healthcare, and would see hospitals closed, jobs lost and care reduced to the cheapest bidder.
4. Education: UKIP want to return to an elite education system. Grammar schools for the rich and talented. College and Universities would become an elite privilege. UKIP are like Tories 50 or 60 years ago.
5. Women's rights and equality: UKIP would end Maternity leave. They want UK to join a club of just 5 countries in the world who do not support women who work to take time off for child birth. Nigel Farage thinks business should be able to choose not to employ women. UKIP want the church to have a greater say in family policy. UKIP oppose gay marriage and see LGBT equality as a problem. Their councilors have attacked disabled people and their rights. They want cuts to services to support disabled people and older people.
6. Prisons: UKIP are happy to increase spending, on some areas they want to double the prison numbers in Britain.
7. UKIP deny that climate change is caused by human behaviour, they don't want to save our planet and don't want curbs on pollution and waste.
8. Defence and warfare: UKIP see Britain as a superpower that needs more missiles and war ships, rather than hospitals and schools. They will cut spending to public services to spend on war.
9. Anti-Workers rights: UKIP want to scrap paid leave for workers, scrap sick pay, scrap maternity pay, and the minimum wage. UKIP are the party of rich businesses. They are happy to claim expenses and deny rights to us all.
10. Migrants: UKIP scaremonger: 2 million UK citizens live or work in Europe and 2 million Europeans live or work in the UK. The recent poster campaign: "26 million unemployed in Europe want to come here and steal our jobs" is just whipping up fear and prejudice. Most people don't want to leave homes & families, you could equally say "millions of unemployed in the North want to go to the South and steal their jobs!"

**UKIP are a boss's party. UKIP want to scrap all our hard fought for rights at work: sick and maternity pay, paid holidays and bank holiday, redundancy payments.**

**They want the rich and powerful to be able to travel freely. They are happy to make money in Europe and across the globe but want to do this unhindered.**

**They want us - the workers and the poor, to pay. Don't believe their lies!**

### 1. YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS

Please tick or fill in the boxes below

Mrs	Ms	Miss	Mr	Other
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First name	Other initial
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Surname/Family name	Date of birth / /
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Home address

National Insurance number (from your payslip)
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Please tick this box if you require materials in a different format (eg large print or Braille) – be sure to supply contact details below.

Please give a telephone number/voice/text/email address for UNISON to contact you – indicate if work or home

Contact tel/voice/text/email
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### 2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer's name
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Your job title/occupation
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Directorate – Department - Section
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Workplace name and address
Postcode

Payroll number (from your payslip)
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**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:**  
 UNISON, Room 145, Civic Centre  
 Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8QH

### 3. WHAT YOU PAY – RATES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2003

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

	EMPLOYMENT (£)	PER WEEK	PER MONTH
Band A:	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to £2,000	£0.30	£1.30
Band B:	<input type="checkbox"/> £2,001–£5,000	£0.81	£3.50
Band C:	<input type="checkbox"/> £5,001–£8,000	£1.22	£5.30
Band D:	<input type="checkbox"/> £8,001–£11,000	£1.52	£6.60
Band E:	<input type="checkbox"/> £11,001–£14,000	£1.81	£7.85
Band F:	<input type="checkbox"/> £14,001–£17,000	£2.24	£9.70
Band G:	<input type="checkbox"/> £17,001–£20,000	£2.65	£11.50
Band H:	<input type="checkbox"/> £20,001–£25,000	£3.23	£14.00
Band I:	<input type="checkbox"/> £25,001–£30,000	£3.98	£17.25
Band J:	<input type="checkbox"/> £30,001–£35,000	£4.68	£20.30
Band K:	<input type="checkbox"/> £35,001+	£5.19	£22.50

Please tick this box if you are a student member in full-time education (including student nurses). Your subscription is £10 per year.

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate how often you are paid:

### 4. POLITICAL FUND

UNISON's **Affiliated Political Fund (APF)** is used to campaign for and promote UNISON policy and the need for quality public services within the Labour Party, locally and nationally, in Parliament and Europe. UNISON APF affiliates to the Labour Party.

UNISON's **General Political Fund (GPF)** is used to pay for campaigning at branch, regional and national levels of the union and for research and lobbying in Parliament and Europe. It is independent of support for any political party.

**It is important that you indicate a choice of fund by ticking one of the boxes below, otherwise you will be allocated to a fund by the union. Your subscription shown above includes a political fund payment so you do not pay any more by being in one of the funds.**

If you have been a member of a trade union before, please state which one:

The information provided by you shall be recorded by UNISON for statistical purposes and used for sending you UNISON publications, ballot forms and otherwise communicating with you. If you do **NOT** want any mailings from UNISON, besides those required by statute, please tick this box

To keep you fully informed of the services we arrange for members we want you to receive details of benefits offered by or in conjunction with UNISON's affinity partners. The affinity partners are organisations with close links to UNISON that share our ambition to provide you with the best possible range of benefits. Under the Data Protection legislation we can only disclose your details to our affinity partners with your explicit consent. Therefore if you **WANT** to receive details of the full range of benefits you **MUST** tick this box

### 5. YOUR AUTHORISATION

- I wish to join UNISON and accept its rules and constitution.
- I authorise deduction of **UNISON** subscriptions from my **salary/wages** at the rate determined by UNISON in accordance with its rules to be paid over to them on my behalf and
- I authorise my employer to provide information to UNISON to keep my records up to date
- I authorise deduction of the following Political Fund payment as part of my subscription: Tick one box only

**Affiliated Political Fund**       **General Political Fund**

Now please sign and date below.

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