

Outlines



UNISON NEWCASTLE CITY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

July 2014 Strike Special

Local Government Strike – Newcastle

I'd like to extend my thanks to the vast majority of UNISON members and non-union members, who supported yesterday's strike call. All of us who took strike action, and who will lose a day's pay in August, did not do so lightly- but we felt we had no other option:

A 3 year pay freeze, followed by a below inflation settlement of 1% and then a further below inflation offer of 1% this year has led to most workers with pay worth almost 20% less than in 2010. Falling pay also means loss of pension for the rest of your life.

A common excuse given as a reason not to strike is "*a bigger pay rise will mean more job cuts and is unaffordable*". This has been refuted by the union and by economic research.

Calling time on the Government's devastating public sector pay cap would create thousands of jobs and pump millions of pounds into the UK economy, according to a landmark report by former IFS senior economist Howard Reed.

The latest research uses figures from the International Monetary Fund to show that every 1% increase in public sector pay would generate between £710 million and £820 million for the Government in increased income tax, National Insurance contributions and expenditure tax receipts, and reduced benefit and tax credit expenditure. It would also inject between £470 and £880 million of extra value into the economy.

The report also reveals that a public sector pay increase could create up to 18,000 full-time jobs.

Newcastle City Branch believes that increasing public sector pay is affordable and would benefit the whole economy, and the Government's insistence that our members should continue to suffer in the name of austerity isn't fair or sustainable, we won't give up or give in! We're worth a lot more!

UNISON General Secretary, Dave Prentis, said: "The strength of feeling amongst our local government and school support workers over the issue of pay was plain to see today. The decision to take strike action and sacrifice a day's pay was a very difficult one, particularly for the hundreds of thousands of low paid workers, but our members felt this was the only way to have their voices heard.

"We are repeating our calls for the Local Government Employers to get back round the table and negotiate a decent pay offer for those workers who have endured four years of pay freezes and below inflation pay offers as a result of the Government's misguided austerity agenda."

UNISON – committed to negotiate, nationally, regionally and locally
UNISON – committed to its members – there for you
UNISON – leading the fight against austerity



Pickets at the Civic Centre



Strike march heading off from Newcastle City Hall

Hardship

In line with UNISON and Branch policy, those members who supported the strike call but will face significant financial hardship can make a request for financial support from the Branch hardship fund. A sub-committee of the Branch strike committee, chaired by the Branch treasurer will examine all requests and process payments on receipt of a claim form. Members that wish to access this support should contact the Branch office:

UNISON Newcastle City Branch
Room 145

**Civic Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8HQ**

Tel 0191 211 6980



Pickets at the City Library



Nicky Ramanandi – Deputy Branch Secretary, speaking in the strike rally in Newcastle



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

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer's name

Your job title/occupation

Directorate – Department - Section

Workplace name and address
Postcode

Payroll number (from your payslip)

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:
UNISON, Room 145, Civic Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8QH

3. WHAT YOU PAY – RATES FROM 1ST 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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