

## Fighting cuts in Nottinghamshire

Labour councillors in Nottinghamshire have signed up to UNISON's Million Voices campaign as they join UNISON in fighting savage cuts being imposed by the new Tory administration. Leader of the Labour Group Alan Rhodes had already signed up to UNISON's campaign at Labour Party Conference, but has now persuaded fellow Labour councillors to join him.

UNISON NEC member and Nottinghamshire joint branch secretary Chris Tansley says that the actions of the Tories, who took control in June, should serve as a warning to UNISON members elsewhere: "We are finding out the hard way what a Tory government would be like. We have a new Tory leader here called Kay Cutts who is really living up to her name. Under her leadership they are cutting staff redundancy entitlements to pave the way to axing over 470 posts. Staff are having their mileage rates cut, annual leave reduced and losing agreed pay protections. Not content with that the Tories are attacking services to their own community by selling off all the elderly persons homes, closing a quarter of the day centres, reducing benefits advice and even shutting the facilities for buying a cup of tea in Sherwood forest. Robin Hood



would be appalled! The substantial increase to the costs for home care, meals on wheels and transport to the remaining day centres will mean that the elderly and disabled will only get the service they can afford. It's the same Ryanair approach to Council Services that the Tories in Barnet are pushing ahead with and that Cameron is so impressed with. We're determined that UNISON will lead the way in campaigning against these draconian attacks on jobs and services. We're also pleased that the Labour councillors have signed up to our Million Voices campaign and look forward to working with them to fight these proposals."

## UNISON MPs back equal pay campaign

MPs who are UNISON members have backed calls for tougher action to achieve equal pay. Co-convenor of the UNISON Group of MPs Judy Mallaber has tabled Early day Motion 2167. It condemns the fact that 40 years after the Equal Pay Act women working full-time in the UK still get paid 17.1% less than men and notes that it is the equivalent of men being paid all year round while women work for free after 30 October. The motion welcomes the government's efforts to introduce new measures to tackle the gender pay gap in the Equality Bill, but also calls for the introduction of representative actions which enable groups of employees to take action in discrimination cases rather than each woman working alone.

UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis backed calls for the government to toughen up the Equality Bill: "UNISON wants to see the bill contain mandatory equal pay audits to expose employers who are not treating women fairly. This will not tackle the causes of unequal pay, but it will shine a spotlight on employers who are still stuck in the dark ages when it comes to their treatment of women."

## Why I've added mine.....

**UNISON member Laura Moffatt is MP for Crawley – she explains why she has signed up to UNISON's Million Voices campaign....**

I have been a member of UNISON for over 35 years and I have seen with my own eyes the wonderful work the union does in representing the views and needs of public sector workers. I certainly remember during my time as a nurse that UNISON were always there for me and my colleagues.

I have decided to add my voice to the Million Voices campaign because I believe in the strength of public services and of the need to protect them. Public services are part of the fabric of our society and the people who work in them do so out of desire to provide a service and are overwhelmingly professional and dedicated.

This commitment to protecting our public services is so important at a time when people are especially reliant on these services to help them through the tough economic climate that we face.

I will certainly be urging my colleagues to do the same.



# Labour Link supports Carwyn Jones as leader of Welsh Labour

*With Rhodri Morgan standing down as Labour leader in Wales, the race is on to elect a successor. Every UNISON member in Wales who pays into UNISON's Affiliated Political Fund should have received a ballot paper, which must be returned by 26 November.*

While every member has a vote, the Cymru Wales Labour Link committee makes a recommendation to members and can offer a supporting nomination. They have overwhelmingly decided to back Carwyn Jones AM.

Three candidates have put themselves forward. The committee considered statements from all three candidates – Carwyn, Edwina Hart and Huw Lewis – before voting to support Carwyn Jones.

Carwyn Jones has long been a member of UNISON and has spoken at many Labour Link events. Margaret Wilkinson, Chair of the Cymru Wales Labour Link Committee said:

“We are pleased to offer our supporting nomination to Carwyn Jones. Carwyn has made his commitment to public services in Wales clear and has explicitly opposed the privatisation of public services, including the NHS. We are confident that if Carwyn

becomes the next leader of Welsh Labour and First Minister he will ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government will protect public services in Wales.”

Carwyn has pledged his support to UNISON's Positively Public campaign and has recently added his name to the Million Voices campaign. Carwyn said:

“I support the work that UNISON has been undertaking to campaign for quality in our public services, and for recognition of the essential role of public services workers in achieving this. It is great that UNISON has offered me their support. Together we can make sure that we deliver for the people of Wales, that we retain strong public services to help them through the worst of recession.”



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## New committee

UNISON Labour Link's newly elected National Committee met in early November. The committee is made up of members directly elected from regions and representatives from UNISON's NEC:

### **EAST MIDLANDS**

GARY RANSFORD

### **GREATER LONDON**

RACHEL VOLLER

### **NORTHERN**

MERVYN BUTLER

### **NORTH WEST**

RAYMOND McHALE

### **SCOTLAND**

ALAN COWAN

### **SOUTH EAST**

ANN BLACK

### **SOUTH WEST**

ANDREW DOWLAND

### **WALES**

MARK TURNER

### **WEST MIDLANDS**

BARRY RUSSELL

### **YORKS & HUMBERSIDE**

KEN CURRAN

JAMES ANTHONY

JEAN BUTCHER

SUE FORSTER

MIKE HAYES

CAROLE MALEHAM

GILL MALIK

GORDON McKAY

WENDY NICHOLS

LYNN POULTON

ELEANOR SMITH

IRENE STACEY

STEVE WARWICK

## **UNISON LabourLink National Committee meeting**

### **KEY DECISIONS 5 NOVEMBER 2009**

#### **Million Voices Campaign**

Committee received presentation on Labour Link involvement

#### **Political Fund Effectiveness Review**

Detailed discussion on National Committee's response to the consultation.

#### **National Labour Link Forum**

Will be held 2nd/3rd July 2010 in Leeds

#### **Labour Party Business**

Received reports from Labour Party NEC representatives

#### **Ballot for election of Wales Labour leader**

Received report on ballot procedure and decision by Cymru/Wales to back Carwyn Jones AM.

#### **Labour Party Conference 2009 - Brighton**

Report was agreed

#### **Elections 2010**

Report on Glasgow North East by-election; proposed campaigning materials; plans for General Election, local council elections and tackling the BNP.

#### **Parliamentary Work**

Reports on Parliamentary work including Equality Bill; MP's briefings; Health update

## How to save £50 billion

Reducing spending for sustainable public finances



# What the Tories really want...

While David Cameron does the voter-friendly gloss for the Tories, their friends are building up a wish-list of savage cuts they want to impose on public services. The Institute of Directors and the Tax Payers' Alliance produced a report last month demanding cutting public spending by £50 billion per year. Some of the particular threats that UNISON members should be aware of include:

- abolish Sure Start
- abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance, which helps 16 year olds stay on in education
- reduce non frontline staff in health and schools by ten per cent
- cut the budget of the Department of Culture Media and Sport by 25%
- abolish the Bus Service Operators' Grant – the tax relief on fuel duty for buses, which means bus fares will soar
- one year freeze on basic state pension and Minimum Income Guarantee
- one year pay freeze across the public sector
- abolish free TV licences
- increase employee contributions to unfunded public sector pension schemes by a third.

Labour MP and former UNISON president Dave Anderson says that every UNISON member needs to be aware of what is in store: "This report makes it clear what the Tories have in mind. These are just a few of their proposals which will hit public service workers hard. Abolishing the grant to bus operators will push up your bus fares. They want to take away Sure Start for your kids. Ending the support for 16 year olds to stay in education will hit working class kids hardest. They want to freeze the pension for your mum and dad and make them pay for their TV licence. They want you to pay more for your own pension, freeze your take-home pay, and in many cases axe your job as well!"

"And don't think you can wander into a museum any more – they want to charge for that as well! Basically they want you to pay for the recession – don't say you weren't warned! Make no



mistake, these are the outriders of the Tory Party and where they lead Cameron and Osborne will follow."

**Send your stories to [labourlink@unison.co.uk](mailto:labourlink@unison.co.uk)**

For more information about the UNISON Labour Link contact **0845 355 0845**

Mon - Fri 6am - midnight and Saturday 9am - 4pm **Textphone: 0800 0 967 968**