

Hacked Off!

The Voice of Hackney Workers

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New Year, Same Old Challenges

With the Olympics just around the corner 2012 is likely to be a lively year for Hackney.

But as we all celebrate the 'greatest show on earth' or at least feign interest after being told we must, 2012 also promises to be a difficult one.

So far Hackney has managed its cuts pretty well. Staff have lost their jobs but not in large numbers and in most sections front line services have been protected. However as the last firework fizzles out over the Olympic park any protection this borough has enjoyed from being one of the host boroughs will fizzle out too.

This month's Governance and Resources Scrutiny Commission was provided with a report from the Director of Finance on the Council's financial position. The introduction of that report set out a number of facts and figures relating to future budgets and explained the following relating to the cuts expected from central government after 2014 explaining:

'The Institute for Fiscal Studies has stated that it believes that the cuts will be even more severe. It also stated that the additional cuts after the next election will mean public spending will drop by 16.2 per cent in real terms over seven years. The worst previous fall in spending was 9 per cent. Since economic records began in the 1950s there has never been seven years of back to back spending cuts.'

This means that no one is 'safe' from the attacks being waged on



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our public services. This level of cutbacks - the most severe in modern British history - will mean that front line services *will* have to be reduced and that some services may not continue to run at all!

In the shorter term the introduction of Universal Credit for benefit claimants will mean huge changes will be made within the council's benefits department. Add into the mix the reduction in funding for education support services, compulsory academies, personalisation in social care, the review of trading standards and environmental health and introduction of massive changes within the social housing sector such as 80% market rents, the public pensions robbery and of course the outrageous attacks on the NHS and it becomes clearer than ever that the fundamental restructuring of our society, driven by the ideology of the Tory party, will affect every single one of us.

In the main we will all be worse off for it in the end and if you think you'll just keep your head down and hope this will all blow over you are sadly mistaken.

The time for being timid and expecting someone else to deal with your problems is gone! No one is going to bail you out.

Continues overleaf

HACKNEY UNISON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 - 2

WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2012
HACKNEY TOWN HALL CHAMBERS

Paid time off has been agreed for all Council, ALMO and Learning Trust members*

Refreshments Provided

Registration from 11.45

* Members should inform their manager they wish to attend so cover can be arranged

web: <http://hackneyunison.wordpress.com>

Motions for the AGM

1.0 Joint Strike Action

This Annual General Meeting congratulates all members who participated on the magnificent public sector strike on November 30th. All the trade unions, 30 in total, showed where the real power lies in society. Hundreds of thousands of workers took part in pickets & demonstrations across the country.

We therefore call on Unison at a National level to continue to co-ordinate and work with other trade unions to take joint action locally & nationally.

Specifically we should be preparing for national strike action in defence of jobs and services and pension attacks by this Tory/Liberal Coalition government.

Moved: Eamann Devlin, DAAT
Seconded: Brian Debus, Libraries

2.0 Public Sector Pay

This Annual General Meeting notes that we have already had 2 years of no pay rises. We now face further cuts with Osborne's Budget stating Public Sector Workers will only be allowed Pay Rises of 1% a year from 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said "In the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 real median household incomes will drop by a whopping 7.4% a record matched only by the falls seen between 1974 and 1977"

The lowest paid have suffered most in the recession. The Pay Claim for the year 2013 should include a rise of £3,000/year across the board. We further note the failure of successive Pay Claim campaigns. In the line with Conference Policy we mandate our negotiating teams to map out a timetable that allows Strike Action to be delivered from the 1st April 2013 if our claim has not been met.

This will require a massive publicity campaign at all levels of the Union in the six months prior to 1st April to involve and prepare members for winning the Pay Claim.

Moved: Brian Debus, Libraries
Seconded: Eamann Devlin, DAAT

3.0 Low Paid Delegate to Conference

AGM recognises the difficulties that Hackney UNISON local government branch has had in filling the low paid seat at national conference in past years.

This has been for many reasons but mostly due to the successful bargaining on pay and grading which, post single status, means we have very few low paid workers in the borough. Not filling the low paid seat has a detrimental impact on our delegation entitlement as we are unable to fill all the seats we are entitled to.

Hackney UNISON local government branch should be commended for the pay and grading work it has achieved over the years not penalised for not having a low paid worker to fill the seat.

AGM mandates the branch committee to write to UNISON national office to ask for a review of the rules which will stop us filling our full delegation entitlement.

Moved: Karen Lynn, Jubilee Primary School
Seconded: Real Ojokor, Mandeville Primary School

Amendments to and Emergency Motions

Any member can submit an amendment to any of the motions contained within this document and providing amendments are received in writing prior to the AGM they will be included in the papers for the meeting.

Members wishing to submit an emergency motion should do so no later than Friday 27th January and providing these are received in writing by close of business on this date they shall be included on the agenda for the AGM.

From front page

When the restructuring report recommends the deletion of YOUR job meaning you can't pay YOUR mortgage Dave Cameron isn't coming to your aid!

And if you think you can pay off your debts and survive for a while on your redundancy money think again because you never get as much as you think you're going to and unless you've been living under a rock for the past couple of years there are no jobs out there for you to go to.

The best way to challenge this government is to stand together and campaign against it. That means not selling your colleagues out during a restructure, it means going on strike when they try to nick your pension, it means doing something for the collective and not just thinking of yourself!

2012 will be difficult but if we stand together and support each other then just maybe we can make it a bit easier for everyone.