

Hacked Off!

The Voice of Hackney Workers

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It's Election Time for Hackney Unison.

This year has been pretty tough but next is likely to be even worse and so it's even more important that members get involved in their union so Hackney Unison is in the strongest possible position to stave off the worst effects of the cuts due to hit in the spring.

We hold elections every year in line with Unison rules and the results are announced at the Annual General Meeting which is taking place on Wednesday 2 February 2011.

All positions are up for election and nomination papers are enclosed along with instructions on how to nominate a member for a post or stand yourself.

We have a strong branch in Hackney due to the dedication of scores of local stewards and officers who devote some of their working week to help their colleagues when they have problems at work.

I would like to thank all those who have played a role over the last year and look forward to working with them again next year.

It's easy during times of cutbacks to lose sight of why we are in a trade union and what the trade unions are here to do.

We often fall back into the relentless task of protecting what we have but we should not forget that the unions are here to improve on what we have and to argue for better terms and conditions of employment, stronger rights for workers wherever they work.

It's also easy to get bogged down in red herring debates which compare the pay and conditions of public employees with those of the private sector but we should be careful not to be fooled by arguments suggesting that we should all be paid a little less because 'that's what happens in business'.

Decent pay and conditions shouldn't be frowned upon they should set the standard and we should not feel guilty if we receive them.

If the private sector had its way then we would all be treated like Victorian factory workers, told to turn up when they say, leave when they allow and handed a pittance when they feel like it.

We do not work for the interest of a few shareholders but for the betterence of society and the benefit of citizens.

The fact is you cannot compare the public and private sectors we are here for different reasons and we perform different roles. That said the next year and beyond will be tough for everyone working in local government.

The Coalition will make cuts and we will have to defend our position. That's why we have to be strong and we have to get involved in the business of protecting our jobs and the services we provide.

This is an ideological battle between us and the Coalition who favour big business and individualism over community and the common good.

If anyone is in any doubt about who the Coalition is here to help out then they should just look at their policies.

Housing benefit caps which penalise and stigmatise the poorest in our society rather than tackling the inequality caused by the housing market.

The front loading of cuts designed at running down councils, making it impossible for them to provide the services needed by the most vulnerable.

So please do take an interest and nominate someone for office or stand for election yourself and play a part in securing a better deal for everyone working for the Local Authority.

Hackney



Town Hall

Mare Street E8 1EA

Tel: 020 8356 4062/71

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

Time for some Action

It's **your** job and **your** services that will be blitzed by this government.

Stewards and

Convenors receive paid time off to assist Unison members and there's never been a better time to get involved in making Hackney Unison the strongest trade union branch in London.

When we stand together we can make a difference.

To find out more about becoming a steward contact the branch office

HACKNEY UNISON BRANCH OFFICER ELECTIONS 2010

As we come towards the end of the year the time has come for us to start thinking about the forthcoming branch elections. Every year the branch elects members to the following posts; Branch Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, Health and Safety Officer, Welfare Officer, Equalities Officer, Membership Officer, Publicity Officer and Education Officer.

The process for elections is as follows; first nominations are invited from the entire membership. If the posts are not contested then no elections need to be held, however if the Branch Secretary post or at least five other officer posts are contested then a full postal ballot must be conducted. If less than five posts are contested then an election can be held at the Annual General Meeting. In addition to officer elections the branch also elects members to national conference and various regional and service group bodies such as the Regional Council at the AGM.

Any member can stand for election to any of the above posts and all posts can be held on a job share basis. If anyone is interested in standing then they must be nominated by another member and that nomination must be seconded by another member. The time table for elections is set out below and a nomination form can be found attached overleaf.

Timetable of Election 2010/11

Open Nominations:	Monday 15 November 2010
Close Nominations:	Friday 3 December 2010
Deadline for Submission of Motions to the AGM:	Friday 17 December 2010
Deadline for Submission of Election Statements:	Friday 17 December 2010
Ballot Opens:	Tuesday 4 January 2011
Deadline for Amendments To Motions:	Friday 17 January 2011
Ballot Closes:	Friday 28 January 2011
Annual General Meeting:	Wednesday 2 February 2011

This timetable is indicative and will potentially be affected by regional involvement. It should be noted that the month of December has been set aside for the submission of statements and the organising of a postal ballot (if required).

Elections to committees and other bodies will be conducted by way of a ballot at the AGM on 2 February 2011 in line with current custom and practice. Nominations to committees and other bodies must be received at the branch by Friday 28 January 2011.

HACKNEY UNISON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 2 February 2011
12:00pm—2:00pm
Council Chambers Hackney Town Hall

Come along, have your say and cast your vote.



Hackney Local Government Branch

Nominations for Branch Officers

Hackney Unison Branch invite nominations for the following Branch Officers posts:

Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, Health and Safety Officer, Publicity Officer, Welfare Officer, Equalities Officer, Education Officer and Membership Officer

If you wish to nominate or second a Unison Branch member for any or all of these posts you need to complete the form below.

Only fully paid up members of Unison can stand, nominate or second a candidate. All positions can be held by job sharers.

Officers Position you wish to nominate to

(Please print clearly)

Name of Proposed Candidate

Candidates Unison Membership Number

Name of Person Proposing

Proposer's Unison Membership Number

Name of Person Seconding

Seconders Unison Membership Number

Signature of Candidate

NB: please print all names clearly using block capitals. If any of the information requested above is not provided or is unclear, the nomination will not be accepted.

Please return completed forms to Hackney Unison, Room 40, Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA.

Motions

Please use this form to submit a motion/s to the Annual General Meeting. **Motions must be returned to the Branch Office no later than 5.00pm on Friday 17 December 2010** All motions received by this date will be included on the agenda. Motions can also be submitted by e-mail @ matthew.waterfall@hackney.gov.uk

Motion Title

Member Proposing the Motion

Membership Number

Member Seconding the Motion

Membership Number