

# Hacked Off!

**The Voice of Hackney Workers**

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## Election of Regional and National Branch Delegates

It is time to elect delegates to various regional and national delegate bodies.

Normally this process is carried out at the Annual General Meeting however this year the branch has decided to conduct elections separately from the officer election process and hopefully encourage more members to get involved.

The branch elects delegates to the Regional Council and Regional Local Government Committee. We are entitled to elect 3 reps and 4 reps respectively. These bodies decide on the regional policy relating to local government and the wider union. Both committees elect an executive each year and meet three times annually during work hours. We would negotiate paid time off for members wishing to attend these meetings as a delegate.

The Regional Health and Safety Committee meets three times a year to discuss regional H+S policy we are entitled to 3 delegates. Locally we elect 8 delegates to the Hackney Trades Council. This body meets every four to six weeks in the evenings to coordinate the work of all trade unions in the borough. The HTUC has recently seen a lot more trade unionists get involved and is doing a great job in promoting local trade union issues and campaigning around national issues which have a local impact. The most important role of this body is to promote solidarity and unity within the movement.

The National Delegate and National Local Government Conferences meet annually and decide on Unison national policy for both Local Government members and the entire union. These two bodies are attended by thousands of delegates from across the UK and form the most important decision making body of the union. We are entitled to send 3 and 4 delegates respectively. The



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conferences are held mid June and this year will be in Bournemouth. Members will receive paid time off to attend the conferences and the branch will cover all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

### Timetable

Nominations Opens - 1st February 2012

Nominations Close - 24th February 2012

In the event that there are too many nominations for any of the delegate positions the branch will organise a ballot of all members.

Ballot Opens - 1st March 2012

Ballot Closes - 15th March 2012

### What Next?

If you are interested in standing for a delegate position please complete the form overleaf and return it to the branch office before the 24th February.

Any member can stand for any of the delegate positions providing they are supported by two other members.



Is this the future of the National Health Service? If the Tories get their Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament it could be! The Bill is going through the Lords at the moment and will be debated further in the Commons in due course. Hackney Unison encourages all members to write to their MP to oppose this attack on the NHS.

## Annual General Meeting a Success.

Around 200 members packed the Council chambers for the Annual General Meeting of Hackney Unison on 1st February. The meeting heard a report back of the year from the Branch Secretary and Officers before debating a record eight motions on matters such as pensions, housing and pay. The AGM also unanimously agreed a motion donating £500 to the Stephen Lawrence Trust.

The meeting ratified this years branch officer elections and elected Joy Ukaegbu and Ciara Burke as Equalities Officers on a job share basis.

Photos of the event will be uploaded to the Hackney Unison blog once they have been processed.

Branch Secretary, Matthew Waterfall said, 'it's great to see so many members playing an active role in their union branch.

Thank you to all the stewards and officers who worked so hard in 2011 to assist their colleagues at work'

Look out for other Unison meetings in your section over the

# Hackney Unison Delegate Nomination Form

Please tick the box(es) of the committees/conferences to be nominated to and return to Hackney Unison, Room 52 Town Hall using the internal post.

## Regional Council

The Regional Council meets four times a year, normally in Central London, to make decisions on Unison policy for the Greater London region. Hackney is entitled to send three (3) delegates to this body.

## Regional Local Government Committee

This body meets three times a year to discuss and decide on Unison policy relating to local government matters for the Greater London region. Hackney Unison is entitled to send four (4) delegates to this body

## Regional Health and Safety Committee

This body meets three times a year to discuss and decide on Unison H+S policy for the Greater London region.

## Hackney Trades Council

The Trades Council is the local branch of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and is made up of delegates from all local trades unions. It meets monthly to discuss ongoing campaigns and local trade union matters. Hackney Unison is entitled to send five (5) delegates to this body.

## Conferences

The National and Local Government conferences are held once a year and are attended by delegates from every branch in the country. They are the most important decision making bodies for the union and set Unison policy nationally for the coming year. Conference also decides on rule changes to the national rules of the union. The conference is in mid June and is being held this year in Bournemouth. All travel, accommodation and expenses are paid by the union and paid time off is given to delegates by the Council, Hackney Homes and Learning Trust.

## National Delegate Conference

The National Delegate Conference decides on national Unison policy for the coming year.

(All delegates are subject to proportionality rules)

## National Local Government Conference

Local Govt Conference decides on national Unison policy relating to Local Government matters

(All delegates are subject to proportionality rules)

Name and membership number of nominee

Nominated by

Membership no.

Signature

Seconded by

Membership no.

Signature