



Notts UNISON News

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November 2010

Notts County Council Budget Cuts

First of all a massive thank you to everyone who attended the lobby at County Hall on Thursday 21st October.

This was the largest demonstration outside County Hall for over 25 years with somewhere between 500 - 600 people there. Well done to everyone for taking the time to attend and show the strength of feeling and outrage against the cuts being proposed by the Council.

The lobby is the first step in the campaign to defend local jobs and services. We will be building on the success of the lobby and use it as a springboard to make the Council realise that they are wrong - Notts County Council cannot decimate local public services and throw thousands of workers onto the scrapheap simply because of their political doctrine. And make no mistake that is what is.

Massive cuts to Council services totalling £69 million this year AND £50 million put aside to sack staff. That's not financial expediency its political madness. Happy to sack the staff no matter what the cost, happy to destroy our services no matter what the cost to our local communities, all in the name of privatisation.

“It is now clear that the promises to protect front line services were lies.”



There is more information on the cuts on page 2

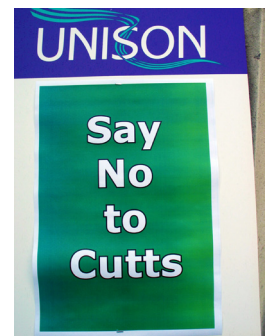


Nationally the Con-Dems plan to cut £7 Billion from the welfare budget, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable. Meanwhile it's estimated that £7 Billion will be paid out this year in Bankers bonuses! The Bankers should be forced to handover their bonuses to avoid the welfare cuts. They caused the problem, make them pay to fix it.



Mike Scott (Notts UNISON Branch Organiser) said:

“It is now clear that the promises to protect front line services were lies. Everyone in Notts will be affected by these cuts and thousands will be thrown out of work. The cuts are not about money, they are about politics. The Tory Council can find £50 million plus redundancies, but nothing to protect the services we all use. A political decision has been made to slash public services and the economic crisis is being used as an excuse. This is slash and burn. Why are cuts here so much worse than in Derbyshire? It's because Notts Tories don't believe in public services – you have to ask why they stood for election in the first place”.

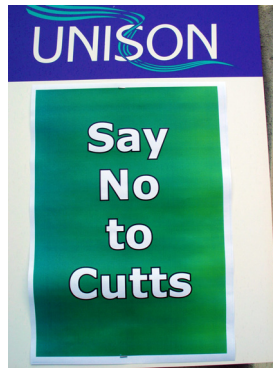


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• **Make sure everyone at your workplace is in the union** - the bigger we
• are, the stronger we are, and that means the more we will be listened to. Join online
• at www.nottsunison.org.uk or phone 0115 9810405 and ask for an application form.
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Notts County Council Budget Cuts continued.....

UNISON, members and staff from across Notts County Council have expressed their outrage at the latest proposed Council cuts. These will affect every area of the Council, with massive reductions in services and thousands of redundancies. For example:



Adult Social Care and Health Dept:

- Sale of all Elderly Persons' Homes
- Closure of Day Centres for elderly and disabled people and people with mental health problems
- Scrapping of the Welfare Rights Service
- Massive restrictions on home services for elderly people

Children and Young People's Dept:

- Major cuts in Youth Offending Service and Surestart
- Serious reductions in help for children with Special Educational Needs
- Cuts of 30% in Front-line Support Staff, leading to more admin work for Social Workers and less time protecting children

Communities

- Up to 50% reduction in Library opening hours, with a 25% cut in staff
- Withdrawal of funding for the Citizens' Advice Bureau, at the same time as scrapping the Council Welfare Rights Service
- Reductions in Highways maintenance
- Major reductions in Economic Regeneration

Your E-Mail Address and Mobile No.

We Need them NOW!!

The Branch is still collecting email addresses for members. This will help us communicate more quickly with you when there is a press release or something urgent that we need to inform you about and it also benefits the environment by cutting down on paper. Please let us have your email address now. Work email address is best but if you haven't got a work one then let us have your home email address. So just email **branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk** and say you want your email address adding to the list and don't forget those mobile no.s!

Yes, Mobile No.s!!

We have also introduced a texting facility so if you have a mobile then let us have that number as well and we can keep you up to date in addition to sending reminders about meetings and important issues.

By simply providing the branch with your email address and mobile number you are helping to ensure we can contact you asap and just as importantly it helps the environment by the massive reduction in paper and photocopying usage. Come on let us have that info now!

Have you moved House, Workplace or Department?

It's really important that we have an accurate record of your home and work addresses.

We need both so we can send you UNISON information and to comply with legislation should we need to ballot you for industrial action. If you have recently changed address, please don't forget to inform the branch office. **branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk**

Help us to help you; make sure that your union has your current details.

Update us on any alterations; no one else will.

Membership Details:

Name: _____

Home address: _____

Work address: _____

Work Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Return to: Notts UNISON, FREEPOST, Nottingham, NG2 1BR

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELECTION OF STEWARD

To serve the interests of our members effectively, Notts UNISON needs to be well organised and ensuring this is the responsibility of all members of the Branch.

To be well organised we need to have Stewards in all workplaces. Stewards are volunteers who are prepared to devote some of their time to helping provide us with a UNISON Branch able to represent us and act effectively on our behalf.

Are you willing to help the Branch and its members, including yourself, by becoming a Steward?

WHAT IT WILL INVOLVE

A basic duty of a Steward is to ensure that all members in your "constituency" receive UNISON literature (such as the Branch Newsletter and notices of meetings) regularly. It also involves helping any of your members who have problems at work, either by giving advice yourself (obtained through training and experience), obtaining advice from others on their behalf or (with more complex problems) in passing them on to a more experienced Officer or Steward.

Stewards are also encouraged to attend Stewards' Meetings to discuss service conditions matters in their Department or sector. These meetings are usually every month and, in most Departments, in work time. Stewards are also asked to ensure that their Department is represented at meetings of the Branch Committee which take place every six weeks, to discuss Branch policies and activities. The Steward also plays an important role in approaching new members of staff to join UNISON.

TIME AND TRAINING

Under Agreements with the County Council and other employers, many of the duties of a Steward can be undertaken during working time. The Branch provides training for all new Stewards and, again, under the Agreement with employers such training takes place in work time, with full pay guaranteed.

Think about it! Maybe you or someone in your workplace is interested? There is a nomination form below and this should be completed and returned to the Branch Office,

NOMINATION FORM FOR UNISON STEWARD

NAME: _____ DEPARTMENT/EMPLOYER (IF NOT NCC): _____

JOB TITLE: (eg Technician/SW/Cleaner) _____

WORKPLACE: (give full address, including postcode) _____

TEL NO: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

TEL NO: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: _____ SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

(PRINT NAME & MEMBERSHIP NO) _____ (PRINT NAME & MEMBERSHIP NO) _____

I CONSENT TO THE ABOVE NOMINATION AND WISH TO STAND FOR ELECTION:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

Please return to: Notts UNISON, FREEPOST, Nottingham NG2 1BR

Branch Officers Elections

The branch officer posts within the branch are due to be elected once again at the end of the year. The period of office runs from 1st January to 31st December. The posts up for election are as follows:-

Chair
Secretary
Service Conditions Officers (2 posts)
Treasurer
Equalities officer
Education officer
Health & Safety officers (2 posts)

Vice Chair
Assistant Secretary
Communications Officer
Assistant Treasurer
International Officer
Welfare Officers (2 posts)

The posts are open to all members so if you are interested in any of the posts full descriptions are available upon request from the branch office (details on front page). If you do decide to stand for a post you need to complete and return the nomination form below and this needs to be signed by a proposer and a seconder who must also be members of the branch. **The closing date for receipt of nominations is 12 noon on Friday 26th November**



NAME: _____ DEPARTMENT/EMPLOYER (IF NOT NCC): _____

WORKPLACE: (give full address, including postcode) _____

**I CONSENT TO THE ABOVE NOMINATION FOR THE POST OF:- _____
AND WISH TO STAND FOR ELECTION:**

SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: _____ SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

(PRINT NAME & MEMBERSHIP NO) _____ (PRINT NAME & MEMBERSHIP NO) _____

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