

Inside this issue:

- Distribution of this newsletter
- March with us against Austerity
- Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations
- Update re Trade Union Bill
- Keep our Neighbourhoods Safe

Rochdale Pioneer Newsletter

As From Monday 4 April 2016 the Council internal mail services changed, following Cabinet approval as part of the council's savings programme.

The mail room has relocated from Green Lane, Heywood, to room 112 at Number One Riverside, Rochdale, and there is no longer be a courier service provided for satellite offices.

This means that Rochdale UNISON can no longer send this newsletter through the internal mail — unless you are based either at Number 1 Riverside or within a School.

Rochdale UNISON are looking at the best cost effective way to distribute this Newsletter for future editions.

If you have an email address and are happy to receive this newsletter electronically*, can you please send an email to unison@rochdale.gov.uk with the subject Newsletter and in the body of the email, please put in your full name and date of birth .

Rochdale UNISON will continue to try to deliver hard copies of this newsletter to satellite offices for as long as possible.

* If you opt to have this sent electronically, any links we put on the documents, can direct you to the relevant websites

Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON

0800 171 2193

Fill in the form on the back and send it to the address below

March With Us Against Austerity

On 16th April there will be a march against Austerity in London. At a time when even former Tory ministers like Ian Duncan Smith are admitting that the cuts they are imposing on welfare are unfair it is important we show our opposition to what the Government is doing. Our pay and terms and conditions at work have been undermined. The people we provide services to are being sanctioned, hounded and impoverished. The NHS is being rundown ready for more privatisation. Year after year there are more cuts and more redundancies. Those of us who remain have to work even harder to try to cover the gaps causing us stress.

When will it stop? We were told it would take 5 years. Then 10 years. Now it looks like austerity could last until 2021 or longer if the Government gets its way. It only stops when we put a stop to it.

If you want to go on the march there will be a coach leaving Rochdale Town Hall at 7am on Saturday 16th April.

To book your place contact Stefan Cholewka 07901 913 698

stefan.cholewka@btinternet.com

Call for a Debate on the Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations

5 million people rely on the LGPS to pay their pensions. Government wants powers over LGPS investment funds, but they could gamble away members' money on infrastructure projects. This is not allowed in any other UK scheme, including the MPs'. The LGPS must be invested in members' best interests.

Parliament must debate this issue and make the government accountable for these powers of intervention as any such direction may breach the law. Specifically Article 18 paragraph 3 of the EU Directive 41/2003 Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision: "Member States shall not require institutions located in their territory to invest in particular categories of assets."

Please sign the petition:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/125475>

The Trade Union Bill

Last month we reported that the 3rd reading of the Bill was on the 16th March and line by line examination of the Bill took place .

Amendments discussed covered clauses 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10-13, of the Bill.

A second day of report stage is scheduled for 19 April — which should cover clause 14 — check-off or DOCAS.

We will keep you updated in further issues of this newsletter

Keep our Neighbourhoods Safe

The Government has revised police funding for 2016-17 which will mean many forces will have their budgets slashed in the coming months. The scale of the funding cuts means that police forces across the North West are considering huge reductions to the services they provide.

Amongst the valuable roles that are under threat is that of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). PCSOs are crucial to effective neighbourhood policing. They are active in our communities and build good relationships with local people. They attend schools and children's homes to talk to young people about issues such as crime and drug abuse. They help make our public transport safe to use and they address anti-social behaviour on our streets.

PCSOs are the main point of contact for the victims of crime. They help to prevent, deter and resolve crime.

A failure to properly resource neighbourhood policing will take us back to the 1970s - with police in panda cars chasing crimes that have happened already. There would be less support for victims of crime, the public would feel more vulnerable, and our communities would be less safe.

PCSOs are accessible frontline staff and they are there for people to turn to. They are trusted by their communities and we cannot afford to lose them.

What Can I Do?

If you live in Lancashire, there is a petition objecting to cuts to the Lancashire Police budget [here](#)

Wherever you live, please show your support for the work of PCSOs and other police staff by signing our petition below: <http://www.unisonnw.org/policingcuts>

Are your membership details up to date?

If you have recently changed your details i.e. moved address or work location or got a new home or mobile number it is important you let the Branch Office know as we need to ensure our records are up to date, so you can receive all the relevant information from UNISON.

Please either :

- email unison@rochdale.gov.uk
- telephone 01706 925951/52
- or alternatively log on to <https://secure.unison.org.uk/> and register for My UNISON to update your details

Remember — We can only communicate with you if your details are up to date.

Join UNISON –

Return to: **UNISON Rochdale, 46 Richard St, Rochdale, OL11 1DU**

1 Tell us about you

Title	First name
Surname/family name	Date of birth / /

Home address _____ Postcode _____

[illegible]

Please give your ethnic origin: (tick one box)

☐ Bangladeshi	☐ Pakistani	☐ Black African	☐ Black UK	☐ White UK
☐ Chinese	☐ Asian UK	☐ Black	☐ Black other	☐ Irish
☐ Indian	☐ Asian other		Caribbean	☐ White other

2 Tell us about your job

Employer's name

Your job title/occupation

Workplace name and address	
	Postcode

Payroll number (from your payslip)

3 What you will pay each month

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Annual pay	Your subscription
Up to £2,000	£1.30
£2,001–£5,000	£3.50
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£8,001–£11,000	£6.60
£11,001–£14,000	£7.85
£14,001–£17,000	£9.70
£17,001–£20,000	£11.50
£20,001–£25,000	£14.00
£25,001–£30,000	£17.25
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5 Choose how you wish to pay Please tick ONE box only

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Signature

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Please fill in the form and send to UNISON 130 Euston Road London NW1 2AY

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To: The Manager	Bank/building society
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Name(s) of Account holder(s)

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Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

4 Choose your political fund

One of the ways UNISON works on your behalf is through political campaigning. Your subscription includes a political fund payment so you won't pay any extra, but in UNISON you choose how you want that money to be used.

Please tick one box only.

Our Affiliated Political Fund takes UNISON members' views directly into the Labour Party, working to promote UNISON policies.

The General Political Fund is used to pay for branch, regional and national campaigns but is independent of any political party.

OR pay by direct debit:

I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions by direct debit

Date _____

Please go to unison.org.uk/privacy-policy to see how we will protect and use your personal information

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Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____