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ROCHDALE UNISON AGM 2017

Wednesday 1st March 2017
12.00 noon Rochdale Town Hall
and

6.00pm Cheesden Room Heywood Civic Hall

All Members are welcome to attend a meeting

If you wish to attend the meeting, please email unison@rochdale.gov.uk or
telephone 01706 925951/52

Refreshments will be available at the start of each meeting
If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know

UNISON National & Local Government Conference

We have 2 Delegate Positions to attend each of the above conferences

Local Government Conference 18th & 19th June	National Delegate Conference 20th — 23rd June
1 Female Seat	1 Female Young Member— Under 27
1 Low paid Female (less than £9.42p/h)	1 Low Paid Female (less than £9.42ph)

If you are interested in attending any of these conferences, please contact the
Branch for further information.

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

Rochdale UNISON, Branch Office, 46 Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

Double Standards

Last year cleaners in Rochdale Council were told they had to accept a cut in their hours. The average cleaner is now £400—£800 worse off because of this cut. At the time councillors were saying that tough choices had to be made.

This comes on top of cuts to overtime, cuts to out of hours payments, cuts to unsociable hours payments, over 1000 redundancies, cuts to homelessness services, cuts to road safety education for our children and increases in charges for services.

This year the councillors have decided to write permanent changes into our contracts that will mean a permanent 1.25% pay cut for the average worker and cuts to increments payments that will leave some workers hundreds of pounds worse off. In doing this they are breaking a national agreement between the unions and local government employers.

These are all tough choices we are told. They don't want to do it but the Government is forcing them.

Then they announce just before Christmas that they are going to take a 34% pay increase. In real terms this is a rise of between £2639 and £16000 per year. Overall the increase in councillors expenses will cost an extra £172,000 a year bringing the total bill to £896,000. This money is going to be taken from the council's £127 million of reserves.

3 Labour councillors have said they will not take the increase. Let us hope that more councillors find their conscience soon.

Protest Wednesday 1st March 5.30pm at Rochdale Town Hall

The council budget will be set on Wednesday 1st March. UNISON and UNITE will be holding a protest outside the meeting to call on the council to use the money it has put aside for this expenses increase for public services instead. We hope all our members will join us.

***** We are aware this clashes with the evening AGM—but we cannot change the date of when the Council sets the budget*****

Nothing fair about school funding cuts

Following the publication of the Government's final proposals for its long-awaited National Funding Formula (NFF), organisations representing school staff, teachers and leaders – ATL, GMB, NAHT, NUT, UNISON and Unite – have updated the schoolcuts.org.uk website to reflect the funding losses facing each school in England.

The picture is extremely bleak. The Government has accused funding campaigners of scaremongering, but the updated figures are worse than previously predicted. The website, which now uses funding data published by the Department for Education, suggests that 98% of schools face a real terms reduction in funding for every pupil, with an average loss for each primary pupil of £339, and £477 for every secondary pupil.

All schools in Rochdale will be effected by this — <http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#/>

Results of Indicative Ballot re changes to Terms & Conditions November & December 2016

We would like take this opportunity to thank each & every member who fully participated in supporting both the Indicate Ballots on the proposed (CUTS) changes to Terms & Conditions which did make a significant impact on the employers final decision. They have since changed the original proposal of a reduction to our Sick Pay Scheme to no change to our National Agreement on Sick Pay. Incremental payments will be paid this year instead of next starting commencement of by- yearly incremental pay. The Unpaid Leave to remain for all staff on a sliding scale from 2-5 days.

The Joint Trade Unions have confirmed that they will not be moving to a Formal Ballot on this occasion.

It's Our NHS

SATURDAY 4 MARCH, 12:00pm TAVISTOCK SQUARE, MARCH TO PARLIAMENT

#OurNHS - National Demonstration:

- *For a fully funded, publicly owned, NHS & social care service
- *No cuts, no closures, no privatisation
- *End the pay restraint for NHS staff

We must fight to save the NHS from destruction. The threat is real. It is happening now. Hospitals, GPs, mental health, ambulance and community services are on their knees.

Private companies are gaining an ever greater foothold within the NHS. Years of pay restraint has seen the value of NHS staff salaries reduce by 14% since 2010. The Government's Sustainability and Transformation Plans are a smokescreen for a massive programme of hospital and community service closures, and are its latest instrument for privatisation.

The NHS is one of our greatest achievements. We cannot allow it to be undermined and ultimately destroyed. Join us on Saturday 4 March and send a clear message to this Government.

Transport is being arranged from across the country. For local transport info please contact Sam O'Brien 07514059370



Another attack on access to justice for workers injured at work

Small Claims Limit – Phi Liptrot from Thompsons Solicitors spoke about the major campaign that has been launched to challenge the Government's plan to increase the small claims limit.

He said that the proposed change will prevent 80% of injured workers from instructing a lawyer to enable them to get compensation for workplace injuries and the consequence is that the employer will be able to make their workplaces even more dangerous. At the moment there is a £1, 000 limit. Phil said that claims are in two parts: general damages which include pain and suffering and special damages which include financial loss like loss of wages etc.

At the moment if the general damages are greater than £1,000 then the individual is able to claim their lawyer fees back from the other side. Phil also reported that 99% of cases are greater than £1, 000. The Government proposal is to increase the limit to £5,000. 80% of all cases are less than £5,000 and will result in individuals not getting any compensation when they are injured by their job. Even where the total claim would be much greater than £5,000 because of things like loss of wages, they still won't be able to claim because their general damages are below the £5,000 threshold. General damages are determined from a prescribed list of financial compensation for a particular condition/injury. Individuals will have to make a decision to pay up front (if they can afford to) and then pay the lawyer out of the total if they are successful. It means that some of these 'fat cat' insurers will get even 'fatter' at the expense of worker's health and safety. It was also reported that some asbestosis claims may fall into this category.

Please encourage as many people as possible to sign the petition at the following;

petition.parliament.uk/petitions/173099 : 100,000 signatures are needed on the petition, to initiate a debate in the House of Commons, so it was agreed to support this.

write to MPs, urging them to oppose the changes follow @FeedingFatCats on twitter and to find out more at www.feedingfatcats.co.uk.

Join UNISON – essential cover if you work in public services

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
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email	National insurance number (from your payslip)
Phone number (please indicate if home, work or mobile)	

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
£5,001–£8,000	£5.30
£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
£30,001–£35,000	£20.30
over £35,000	£22.50

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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.

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Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

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Date

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