

UNISON News

STRIKE SPECIAL



**STRIKE ON 28TH
MARCH 2006**

As you will no doubt know, the result of the ballot for industrial action was a resounding “YES” vote. Approximately 80% of those voting were in favour of taking action, and the 29% turnout was actually an increase on the turnout when we voted on the same issue last year.

The consequence of that result is that UNISON, along with 9 other trade unions, (including colleagues in GMB and TGWU) is instructing all members covered by the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) – that means all those who could be in the LGPS, not just those who are - to take strike action on Tuesday 28th March.

Potentially 2 million people could be out – the biggest strike action since the General Strike in 1926.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN LOCALLY?

We expect every member (unless they have been given an individual exemption) to take part in the action.

We also hope that as many as possible will turn up to picket their own workplace, or join others at one of the main pickets (Taberner House, Strand House, Rees House, New Addington, Stubbs Mead Depot, Purley Oaks Depot, various Social Services establishments and various schools). We will be picketing until approx 10.30 am.

Campaign materials will be available from the Branch Office.

DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL LONDON

There will be a march to Central Hall in Westminster where there will be a rally at 3 pm. We would encourage as many members as possible to attend this demonstration, so that we achieve as high a profile in the media as possible.

After picketing we will gather at the UNISON Social Club, for

rolls and coffee (and maybe a beer as well!), before making our way to East Croydon station. The Branch will cover travel expenses for all those attending the demonstration, and we'll be taking our impressive banner along.

EXEMPTIONS

The only exemptions that will definitely be made are for those in their last year before retirement and those about to go on maternity leave.

There will also be consideration of life and limb cover. Where there is risk of serious injury or death we will make exemptions, with certain conditions. In many emergency services there will be sufficient non-union members to be able to provide bare minimum cover without any UNISON members needing to be exempted.

DECISIONS REGARDING EXEMPTIONS WILL BE MADE BY UNISON, NOT BY MANAGEMENT OR ANYONE ELSE.

UNLESS YOU HAVE A LETTER FROM THE BRANCH SECRETARY MALCOLM CAMPBELL, CONFIRMING THAT YOU HAVE AN EXEMPTION, THEN YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE STRIKE ACTION

FUTURE ACTION

I'm sure you'll all realise that one day's strike action (even when taken by up to 2 million) is unlikely to result in a capitulation by the Government and the Employers. We will therefore inevitably be involved in more action.

This will certainly consist of further all-out action, but may also include selective action by certain groups of workers for longer periods.

In the event of selective action, it will be incumbent upon the Branch to fund the strike pay for the groups of workers involved.

This is because the numbers of workers taking selective action across the country would mean that UNISON's national fund would not be large enough to fund their strike pay.

This is why we are enclosing a voluntary levy form.

We would ask that you fill this in and enable us to build up our Industrial Action Fund to a level that will enable us to call out specific members when necessary.

HARDSHIP

We are conscious that, although losing a day's pay is not an easy thing for anyone, there are some members who would be in a very difficult financial situation if they incur such a deduction.

In genuine cases of hardship we can help out, and we would encourage members in that position to apply for assistance.

Forms are available from the Branch Office and all claims will be dealt with confidentially.

WE WOULD MUCH RATHER MEMBERS SOUGHT SUCH ASSISTANCE THAN BE LEFT IN A POSITION WHERE THEY FEEL UNABLE TO TAKE THE STRIKE ACTION.

For further updates, please visit the Branch's website at www.croydonunison.co.uk

A message from the General Secretary.....



Dear Colleague,

Following the 80% "YES" vote in the ballot in favour of our members taking industrial action in furtherance of the trade dispute with the Government over the terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme, I am now calling upon all members balloted (and all of their work colleagues who have joined the union since the start of the Ballot) not to attend work on 28th March.

This is a call to take one-day strike action and will, if necessary, be followed by other calls at the appropriate time.

Best Wishes

Dave Prentis
General Secretary



EVERYBODY
OUT ON
MARCH 28TH!

PROTECT
WHAT IS
RIGHTFULLY
OURS!

PICKET YOUR
WORKPLACE

JOIN THE
MARCH AND
RALLY TO
WESTMINSTER
CENTRAL
HALL

Ring the Branch
Office for
further details
0208 760 5435