

UNION STREET NEWS



ABSOLUTELY BRUTAL CUTS! UNISON MEMBERS FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR SERVICES Protest On DEC 4th.

Coventry UNISON members have vowed to fight the cuts proposals every inch of the way. If implemented the budget cuts will devastate the lives of Coventry citizens, especially the most vulnerable. Coventry will once again become a 'ghost town', with low wages, no prospect jobs, the only employment on offer. A whole generation of skills, knowledge and experience could be lost to the public sector.

Tens of thousands have already protested and lobbied across the country. Unison will unite with our sister unions in the City Council and with the city wide anti-cuts campaign to defend public services in our city and across the UK.



Coventry Unison Members Lobby Parliament—October 19th - Pic—Dawn Palmer -Ward

Union Street News is edited and published by the Coventry branch of Unison. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the official view of Unison

REDUCING THE DEFICIT: NO REDUNDANCIES

OUR ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

£4.7bn could be raised every year by introducing a 50% tax rate on incomes over £100,000.

£10bn could be raised every year by reforming tax havens and residence rules to reduce tax avoidance by corporations and 'non-domiciled' residents.

£14.9bn could be raised every year by using minimum tax rates to stop reliefs being used to disproportionately subsidise incomes over £100,000.

£30bn could be raised every year by introducing a Major Financial Transactions Tax on UK financial institutions.

£1.8bn could be saved next year by cancelling Trident, the project is set to cost £76bn. Which could be saved over the next 40 years.

£500m could be saved every year by eradicating healthcare acquired infections from the NHS -the extra cleaners would cost half this.

£495m could be saved every year by

adopting measures to improve the health and well-being of NHS staff, thereby reducing sickness absence.

£1bn could be saved every year by halving the local government agency bill, as has been achieved by high performing councils.

£5bn could be raised every year with an Empty Property Tax on vacant dwellings. This only exaggerates housing shortages and harms neighbourhoods.

£2.8bn could be saved every year by ending the central government use of private consultants who bring little discernable benefit.

£3bn could be saved in user fees and interest charges every year if PFI schemes were replaced with conventional public procurement.

Total: **£74.195 billion**

If you have any thoughts on this, please do get in touch -
communications@coventryunison.co.uk

We urge all our members to send us your ideas, talk to your colleagues and get involved in the fight for a public service future!

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UNISON takes to the streets!

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CSR - The Brutal Truth

If implemented, the cuts to total public spending over the four years from April 2011, after economy-wide inflation, are set to be the deepest since World War II. Cuts to spending on public services will be the deepest since the four years beginning in April 1975, when the then Labour Government was trying to comply with the IMF austerity plan.

- average cuts to Departmental current spending amount to **13%** over five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15 (unevenly distributed between „protected“ and „loser“ departments).
- Treasury estimates that **490,000** public sector jobs will be lost over 4 years. The *Independent* has suggested that around 350,000 of these will be women's jobs; though this is likely to be an underestimate as women are more concentrated in more vulnerable grades and sectors.



Solidarity News

Members of Coventry Unison have played a very active role in opposing the threat of the racist English Defence League (EDL) in recent months.

The EDL is an organisation of racist thugs, with links to the BNP and other fascist groups.

The EDL particularly targets Muslims, although EDL supporters have also

threatened and attacked other minority groups –



Coventry activists against EDL

including attacking a Hindu temple in Dudley.

Its supporters can regularly be seen giving the “siege heil” salute of Hitler’s Nazis.

Unison will continue to support anti racist initiatives that seek to draw people together from all backgrounds, to unite to defend public services and protect jobs. Those who scapegoat any group in society can only weaken and divide us!

Visit www.uaf.org.uk for more info and e-mail coventryunite@yahoo.co.uk to get involved..

Public Sector Myths Exposed

By Unison members in,
Revenue and Benefits

Question:

Are average earnings in the public sector higher when you compare similar roles, and is it really fair to compare jobs across the public and private sectors?

UNISON response:

It is extremely difficult to compare jobs across the public / private sector divide, not least because so many jobs exist only in one or the other sector. However, one way of comparing pay and roles is by looking at the formal qualifications of employees. Nigel Stanley from the TUC has researched this issue and found the following:-

Public sector graduates are paid 3.4 per cent less than in the private sector.

Public sector workers with higher education qualifications short of a degree are paid 6.2 per cent less than in the private sector.

- Public sector workers with A-levels are paid the same as in the private sector.

- Public sector workers with lower skills get paid more than in the private sector.

Question:

Private sector workers put in more hours, and so deserve greater rewards than the public sector. Does this statement really reflect the real situation across the public and private sectors?

"Last year the average public sector worker laboured for 35 hours a week...2 hours less than the typical private sector worker." **The Times, 3rd Jan 2010.**

UNISON response:

One trick to look out for is anti-public sector journalists/commentators lumping together full-time and part time jobs and claiming that the private sector works longer hours (as in the quote from the Times above).

As Ben Goldacre explains in his analysis *"this is simply due to the greater number of part time jobs in the public sector – 31% vs. 23% – which is a longstanding phenomenon."* It's also significant that, while contracted hours are often lower in the public sector, large amounts of unpaid overtime is routinely performed by public sector workers. In 2008 researchers from Bristol University found that public sector workers do more unpaid overtime than those working for private companies,

The study found that public sector workers do an estimated:

120 million hours of unpaid overtime a year - the equivalent of employing an extra 60,000 people!

They went on to claim that 46 per cent of employees in education, health and social care in the "non-profit sector" work unpaid overtime, compared with 29 per cent of their counterparts in the private sector.

UNISON Hits Back At "Misleading" Local Government Productivity Claims

By

**David Kersey,
Communications
Officer**

Coventry UNISON, backed by our national leadership, has hit back at a new management report on productivity in local government, calling the study misleading, unrepresentative and unhelpful. Far from low productivity, comprehensive, independent studies show that public sector productivity has been rising since 2006 and recent job losses have left workers under huge pressure. Further cuts would not only turn back the clock, but would lead to vital local services shutting their doors.

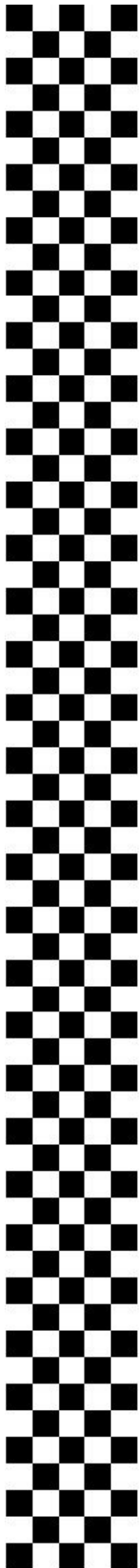
Dave Prentis, UNISON General Secretary, said:

"This small survey flies in the face of evidence on public sector productivity, which...has been rising since 2006. The situation in Local Government now is more work on less shoulders. Council workers have delivered over and above targets for efficiency savings every year they have been set. UNISON's latest independent staff survey shows 31% of council staff regularly putting in extra hours without pay or time off in lieu. Two thirds said that their workload had gone up from the previous year. The public cannot be fooled into thinking that job cuts will not have a devastating impact on local services.

500,000 job cuts would decimate local services. Care homes, day centres, libraries and children's homes are already shutting their doors. Charges for services like home care, meals on wheels, or nursery places are on the up. Serious shortages in social work and social care already exist, any more cuts will leave vulnerable people without the support they need.

It is a red herring to compare private and public sector productivity. How can you measure the productivity of a care worker, and compare it with a car worker on a production line? Instead of constantly running local government workers down, we should be focusing on boosting morale, which would also have a knock on effect to productivity."

Coventry Unison will not stand aside and let highly paid accountants attack the hard work and high quality of service delivered by our members. Council staff work with people, not widgets, you cannot measure our impact on people's lives with a spreadsheet or with the buttons of a calculator.



GHOST TOWN

Do you want to go back to the 1980s?

We are heading there at a pace.....

In the 80s they sold our Gas, Electricity and Water
Now they are attacking & selling off our Council
services:

- Doubling care costs for the elderly
- Cuts to the youth service
- Cutting nursery care
- Closure of One Stop Shops
- Cuts in Libraries
- Halving support to city neighbourhoods

Think of a service in Coventry and there will be cuts to it !
No service is safe when 1000 full time posts have to go to
satisfy the cuts of the Con-Dem government. EVERY man,
woman and child in Coventry will be
affected.

WHEN IT IS GONE IT IS GONE
Fight for your services now

**DEMO—11am, 4th December,
Assemble at Council House**

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