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Branch Secretary
Pat McDonagh

February 2011

**TO: ALL UNISON MEMBERS
IN MANCHESTER BRANCH**

Dear Colleague,

FINAL AGENDA

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12.45pm TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2011
GREAT HALL, TOWN HALL
ALBERT SQUARE
MANCHESTER**

I write to remind you that the Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 March 2011 at 12.45pm.

An agenda is enclosed.

Facility Time

For those members employed by Manchester City council facility time of an hour and a half has been granted to allow you to attend this meeting, subject to the usual provisions of ensuring that services are covered. Please inform your line manager you intend to attend. Please note that for those members who work outside of the City Centre travelling time of up to half an hour (15 minutes each way) has also been agreed.

Amendments to Motions

Amendments to motions must be submitted to the Branch Office no later than 12 noon on Thursday 24th February 2011.

Access Issues

The Town Hall is accessible to wheel chair users. If you have any other access requirements please contact the Branch Office no later than Thursday 24th February 2011.

Yours sincerely

**Pat McDonagh
Branch Secretary**

FINAL AGENDA
12.45PM TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2011
GREAT HALL, TOWN HALL
ALBERT SQUARE
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1. To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 18th February 2010
2. To approve the Branch Audited Final Accounts for 2010 and honoraria for 2 Branch Auditors
3. To receive the Annual Report and Branch Development Plan for 2011
4. To receive the results of the Branch nominations/ballot for the election of the following Branch Officer posts:

A. Branch Secretary

Pat McDonagh Chief Executives

B. Assistant Branch Secretaries (8)

Cath Baggaley	Neighbourhood Services
Julie Connolly	Chief Executives
Marion Doherty	Chief Executives
Evelyn Doyle	Children's Services
Martin Empson	Chief Executives
David Kemp	Adult Social Care
Declan Maguire	Adult Social Care
Eddy Redmond	Children's Services
Jane Slater	Corporate Services
Brian Stangoe	Adult Social Care
Steve Swift	Neighbourhood Services
Rena Wood	Children's Services

5. The following nominations for Branch Officer posts have been received:

(a) Branch President	Mo Baines	APSE
(b) Branch Vice Presidents (2)	Patrick Taylor	Adult Social Care
	Kate Russell	Connexions
(c) Branch Treasurer	Bob Oram	Chief Executives
(d) Equality Officer	Sonia Stewart	Chief Executives
(e) Communications Officer	Rod Fawcett	Chief Executives
(f) Education Officer	Steve Swift	Neighbourhood Services

(g) International Officer	Isobel McVicar	Community HEART
(h) Health & Safety Officer	Geoff Archibald	Corporate Services
(i) Learner Reps Co-ordinator	Steve Lynch	Corporate Services
(j) Honorary Auditors (2)	Neelam Nayar	Corporate Services
	Paul Muir	Corporate Services

6. Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

7. To debate the following Rule Changes:

Rule Amendment

This AGM delegates authority to the Branch Executive Committee to agree administrative amendments to Branch rules to conform with National model rules where necessary subject to formal approval by the next AGM

Proposed by the Branch Officers

(Explanatory note – The National Executive Council has developed a set of core model branch rules that all branches should follow. The Branch rules closely follow these core rules, but some minor administrative changes may be required, for example notice periods for elections etc)

8. To debate the following motions:

Motion 1 – ConDem Attacks on Manchester

This Annual General Meeting condemns the ConDem Governments attack on our members, our City and the public who value our services.

The local government settlement for Manchester was the fifth worst in the country. To cut the Budget by £110 million in a single year, effectively 25% of the entire budget will inevitably devastate our Council services.

The Labour administration in discussions with trade unions have reiterated they are still seeking to respond to these ConDem cuts without recourse to compulsory redundancies.

£40m savings in non-payroll costs have been identified leaving an approximate £70m shortfall in the budget for 2011/12.

The Council agreed there was a need to introduce a Voluntary Severance (VS) and Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) scheme for all staff excluding directly employed school staff.

Based on an average salary with on costs the intention of the Council is to attract approximately 2,000 applications based on the average costs of just under £30,000 per full time employee (which includes 20% employer on costs).

However the figure of 2,000 posts will vary depending on the salary level of those who opt to leave and are allowed to leave on VS or VER.

Some, depending on their role and potential costs, may not have their applications agreed.

Branch Officers have met senior management on a near daily basis to discuss the position and potential options -

This AGM:

1. Notes that the voluntary scheme is regrettably necessary given the sheer scale of the ConDem cuts and acknowledges the inevitable major reduction in services given the 25% cut in the entire Council budget is bound to severely impact on the people of Manchester.
2. Calls on the Branch to continue to seek full involvement in jointly monitoring the process including full consultation on proposals around movement of staff through m people to cover the gaps caused in people leaving and new work management arrangements.
3. Whilst recognising that the Council position of not being able to give a guarantee that there will not be any compulsory redundancies at some point in the future, this AGM reaffirms its policy of completely opposing compulsory redundancies.
4. That whilst the voluntary severance proposals may significantly resolve the danger of the threat of compulsory redundancies this Branch believes there are further options which we will pursue with the Council should they be proposed.
5. Approves the decision of the Branch Executive to request formal approval of the National Industrial Action Committee to ballot our members to take action up to and including indefinite strike action should the Council at any time announce any intention to implement compulsory redundancies.
6. Agrees whilst this remains our bottom line the Branch AGM acknowledges to date both senior management and the Council leadership have been open and have positively engaged with the trade unions in responding to the Government attacks on the City and in considering their response.
7. Welcomes the holding of 15 workplace meetings across the City involving over 1,200 of our members in the last week of January.
8. That, given even in the midst of the carnage to our services and threats of unemployment of our members, a LibDem councillor publicly attacked facilities for trade unions to represent their members and subsequently the LibDems as a Council group called for at least 5% pay cuts for all staff, this AGM encourages members to work for the removal of LibDem councillors across Manchester whose party support and defend their ConDem governments attacks on our city.

This AGM:

- a) Calls on Branch officers to ensure there is continued effective consultation on all Council proposals and to fully involve members in individual services through circulars and meetings.
- b) Believes the Branch should continue to press the Council to reduce and wherever viable cease the use of consultants.
- c) Supports the Manchester Petition launched by the Manchester Evening News and agrees the Branch will work with widely representative campaigns against Government attacks on services in Manchester involving community, voluntary and service user groups.
- d). Believes the Government attack on our City has nothing to do with the national public borrowing deficit but is an ideological and political attack on our public services.
- e) Agrees that our Branch call on our North West UNISON Region, our national union and the TUC to organise a mass demonstration of opposition to the Governments' policies on the 2nd October 2011 when the Tory Party Conference is due to be held in Manchester.

Proposed by The Branch Officers

Motion 2 – TUC National Demonstration

This AGM welcomes the National Demonstration called by the TUC on 26th March in London to protest against the destructive policies of the ConDem Government.

The Government have no mandate for the scale of their attacks on our public services and our communities.

This AGM endorses the decision of the Branch Executive to fund free transport for our members to attend and urges members to take the opportunity to attend and help make this demonstration a massive show of opposition to this Government's policies.

Proposed by Branch Officers

Motion 3 – Fighting the Tory Cuts

This Annual General Meeting notes that the ConDem government's vicious attack on Manchester has stolen £110m in just one year from the city's vital services. This massive cut – the seventh-worst settlement in the whole country – means that some services ranging from language support for migrants to routine bridge maintenance

are on the point of being halted entirely. Other services – libraries, Sure Start centres, support for those with disabilities – are under direct threat.

This AGM believes that we, as Council staff, can reach out to service users and the general public to form an alliance that would campaign to defend services, and our jobs, right across the city.

We could consider activities such as

1. A 'Manchester March Against the Cuts'
2. Promoting the mass petition launched by councillors and the Manchester Evening News on 2nd February, by organising Unison street-stalls and by visiting and leafleting the main Council workplaces, with the petition.
3. Joint public meetings with groups campaigning for local libraries and other services.

We are encouraged to note that the Trades Union Congress (TUC) has discussed the possibility of 'coordinated action' against various aspects of the Tory attacks on services and on public sector workers.

We believe that the level of assault now being conducted by the ConDem is such that the attacks clearly cannot be beaten back by a single group of workers at a single Council. We therefore believe that some form of coordinated, nationwide industrial action across a number of Councils and other sectors will be necessary to reverse Cameron and Osborne's attacks on everything we have worked for as public sector workers.

This AGM therefore urges Branch officers to consider how best to ensure that our Branch, and Unison nationally, takes part as appropriate in such coordinated, nationwide industrial action as may take place in the months ahead.

This AGM further recognises that a general strike, involving as many trade unionists and workers as possible, is likely to be essential in halting the Tory attacks.

Proposed: Mike Killian

Seconded: Martin Empson

