

Durham Local Government **UNISON** Bulletin

22 November 2016 (5)

Schools Strike Edition

Message from UNISON General Secretary, Dave Prentis

This week you're taking a further two days of strike action against the appalling plans to slash your salaries. And already the steps we have taken together have had such an impact.

As I said at Redhills earlier this month – if Durham Council had any doubts about how seriously you or your union are taking this dispute, they certainly don't now.

That's why it's so important that this week's strike is at least as successful as the last one. We have even more picket lines organised, the media are interested in your stories and your communities are behind you. Now we need to make sure that your action has the maximum impact with as many UNISON school staff on strike as possible.

If that happens, it will be easier to get Durham Council back to the negotiating table with a proper offer. That's the best way to win the pay you deserve.

You have the full support of your union – financially, industrially and politically – behind you in this fight. And have no doubt, we are going to win.

Yours,
Dave Prentis
General Secretary



PTO for
information on this
week's action



The branch office is open:


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UNISON
the public service union

Thinking of joining, contact us in the branch or you can
join on line at **www.joinunison.org**

Arrangements for Wednesday and Thursday

As previously announced, materials will again be available to collect from Redhills in Durham between 4pm and 6pm today (Tuesday 22 November).

We have 100 pickets registered for this week's industrial action, which is a fantastic show of strength from our members. Thank you! If you haven't yet registered a lead picket, please contact the branch office.

Picketing will take place on Wednesday and Thursday morning. **Further details will be circulated tomorrow of UNISON activity arranged for Thursday.**



Frequently Asked Questions regarding strike action

- UNISON members who are pregnant at work, or on maternity leave, will receive an exemption from strike action. Exemptions will also be given to those demonstrating they are in their last year of service. Please contact the branch office to request an exemption if this applies to you.
- An employee who is not contractually required to work because of sickness can still be viewed as taking part in a strike if he or she associates him or herself with the strike. The member should be very careful that actions whilst on sick leave (e.g. attending a picket) are not inconsistent with the member's reason for being on sick leave.

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