



**NEWSLETTER 52**

**29 JANUARY 2007**

**Scotland for information only**

**REGISTER YOUR BRANCH FOR THE SPECIAL  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE NOW -  
12 FEBRUARY DEADLINE!**

**Regional briefings**

Over the next week, UNISON Regions will continue to hold joint Service Group briefings to discuss DCLG's proposals for the new LGPS from 2008. They have been organised to bring regions, branches and service groups up to date with the draft Regulations, let you know what the Trade Union Side thinks of them and to give your representatives a chance to ask questions and have their say. The briefings are being followed by meetings of the local government, police, higher education, water and environment service groups within each Region. The aim is to enable them to formulate a view on the proposals following the briefing. Regions have been asked to feed responses back to the NEC's Service Group Liaison Committee, which oversees the LGPS campaign, by 2 February. Please contact your Regional Pension Contact (see list below) for details of briefings still to be held.

Regions have been asked to co-ordinate feedback from the regional service group meetings, the general areas to be considered are, what has been the overall reaction of members, what elements of the new scheme are welcomed/unacceptable, the likely support for industrial action if the proposals are unamended and/or if we secure improvements and finally what type of industrial action would we expect members to take if it proves necessary.

**Do your members know what's happening?**

Your branch should now have received a new leaflet for members on the draft LGPS Regulations and UNISON's view of them. **Please make sure this gets out to all members if you haven't already.**

## **'The New LGPS and You'**

Don't forget that we have also produced a detailed briefing for members on the Draft LGPS Regulations.

This briefing - 'The New LGPS and You' - summarises the proposals in the draft Regulations and shows how the proposed benefits compare with the current ones. It also highlights whether the proposals are in line with Trade Union Side policy and identifies where we consider improvements or changes are required.

In the briefing we give a few examples of how the changes could affect your pension, which will remain a final salary scheme. Our detailed analysis of the changes from the current scheme continues and we are also working on a 'ready reckoner' that will enable you to see how your pension might be affected.

This briefing can now be downloaded from the Pensions section of the UNISON website [www.unison.org.uk/pensions](http://www.unison.org.uk/pensions)

## **Negotiations continue**

In the meantime, the Trade Union Side will be having further meetings with the employers to work on the redundancy provisions, ill health retirement and part-time workers' contribution calculations. We are continuing to press for improved protection for existing members too and need you to keep up the pressure with us.

## **Special Local Government Conference on the LGPS**

The Special Local Government Service Group Conference will be held at **1.00 pm on Tuesday 6 March 2007** at Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 4AY. The sole purpose of the conference is to consider the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Please make sure that your branch has registered by 12 February for the Special Local Government Conference so that your views are reflected in this hugely important debate about the future of your pension scheme. (Branches should contact us on 020 7551 1326 if you have mislaid your pink registration form).**

If you are an individual local government member reading this, please make sure that you attend any consultation meeting which your branch has organised to get your views. If you can't attend, let your steward or Pension Contact know what you think of the proposals. It is important that these are fed in to the Special Local Government Conference.

Democracy isn't working unless you're taking part – for more details on the Special Local Government Conference timings and agenda please see below.

The Preliminary Agenda has now been published and distributed to local government branches.

## Timetable

The timetable for the Special conference is as follows:

Deadline for submission of Motions or Amendments to the SGE Motion	5pm Monday 12 Feb 2007
Deadline for submission of Delegates	5pm Monday 12 Feb 2007
Deadline for submission of Emergency Motions	5pm Wednesday 28 Feb 2007

All the relevant paperwork for the Conference (including the motion being proposed by the Local Government Service Group) has been mailed out to branches.

## Regional Pension Contacts

Eastern Region	Tracey Lambert Ann Vinden	<a href="mailto:t.lambert@unison.co.uk">t.lambert@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:a.vinden@unison.co.uk">a.vinden@unison.co.uk</a>
East Midlands	Lilian Greenwood	<a href="mailto:l.greenwood@unison.co.uk">l.greenwood@unison.co.uk</a>
Greater London	Chris Remington Jackie Loudoun	<a href="mailto:c.remington@unison.co.uk">c.remington@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Jackie.loudoun@unison.co.uk">Jackie.loudoun@unison.co.uk</a>
Northern	Charlie Syme	<a href="mailto:c.syme@unison.co.uk">c.syme@unison.co.uk</a>
Northern Ireland	Lily Kerr	<a href="mailto:l.kerr@unison.co.uk">l.kerr@unison.co.uk</a>
North West	Mike Booth Jennifer Walley	<a href="mailto:m.booth@unison.co.uk">m.booth@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:j.walley@unison.co.uk">j.walley@unison.co.uk</a>
Scotland	Dave Watson	<a href="mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk">d.watson@unison.co.uk</a>
South East	Brendan Nee Daphne Kabia Kunal Patel	<a href="mailto:b.nee@unison.co.uk">b.nee@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:d.kabia@unison.co.uk">d.kabia@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:k.patel@unison.co.uk">k.patel@unison.co.uk</a>
South West	Bill McMillan	<a href="mailto:b.mcmillan@unison.co.uk">b.mcmillan@unison.co.uk</a>
Cymru/Wales	Paul Elliott	<a href="mailto:p.elliott@unison.co.uk">p.elliott@unison.co.uk</a>
West Midlands	Chris Rogers Emma Morgan	<a href="mailto:c.rogers@unison.co.uk">c.rogers@unison.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:e.morgan@unison.co.uk">e.morgan@unison.co.uk</a>
Yorkshire & Humberside	Alan Hughes	<a href="mailto:a.hughes@unison.co.uk">a.hughes@unison.co.uk</a>

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

## NEWSLETTER 52 – 29 JANUARY 2007

### SCOTLAND FOR INFORMATION ONLY

#### **LGPS member? What you should do now...**

- Make sure you've got UNISON's new leaflet on the draft Regulations so that you know what's in them and what UNISON and the other unions think of them
- Give copies to your workmates and non-members too
- Get non-members in your workplace to sign up to UNISON
- Log on to the UNISON website [www.unison.org.uk/pensions](http://www.unison.org.uk/pensions) for a more detailed briefing on the new proposals - 'The New LGPS and You'
- Discuss it in your workplace
- Make sure your branch has your views – in writing or by e-mail if necessary. All branches have been asked to consult with members on the proposals by 1 February
- Find out about consultation meetings in your branch... ring UNISONdirect on 0845 355 0845 for your branch details if you don't have them
- Make sure your branch has got your correct details in preparation for a consultation ballot on the proposals or for further industrial action