

# UNISON IN THE CITY

Newsletter of Nottingham City UNISON

*The  
Public  
Service  
Union*

**UNISON**  
*Nottingham City*  
**Fighting To Defend  
Jobs & Services**

## MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH SECRETARY

UNISON members across all sectors which include the City Council, as well as the private voluntary and independent sector, have continued to bear the brunt of austerity and cuts in funding at a national and local level in 2024, with no signs of those cuts being reversed by the recently elected Labour government.

The branch continues to campaign against these devastating cuts as part of the **Nottingham Save our Services (SOS)** campaign group which has been working tirelessly to oppose and challenge cuts to vital services affecting the most disadvantaged communities in the city. Their next public meeting is taking place at 7.00pm on Thursday 23 January at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Please see [flyer](#) for further details.

Another priority for the branch has been to ensure we provide support and representation to our members facing job cuts and redundancies resulting from an ever increasing number of restructures. We recently challenged ill-informed and ill-considered comments made by the Council's Deputy Leader attacking the workforce at a time when staff recruitment and retention at the Authority is reaching crisis levels, and excessive workloads are placed upon staff leading to higher levels of absence due to stress related illnesses. The Branch stated in its letter to the Deputy Leader that they should be more concerned about the increasing number of very highly paid senior managers, consultants, and the commissioners on £1,000s per day rather than attacking hard-working front-line staff and the people who directly manage them.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR UNION AND A BIG THANK YOU  
TO ALL OUR REPS FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS IN  
SUCH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 11 - 14 MARCH 2025

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meetings taking place between 11 - 14 March - see pages 2 & 3 for full details.

I really encourage you to come along and contribute, especially in the current circumstances members are facing in Nottingham City.

**UNISON There for You** - helps to support members when life isn't easy with issues such as : being off work with a long-term illness; domestic violence or abuse; living on the breadline and needing to pay a major bill or a vital item; recovering from surgery; looking for advice in dealing with your debts.

Further information is available at:-

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>



Web: <http://www.nottinghamcityunison.org.uk/> Email: [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) Tel: 0115 8762441

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2025**

All members are encouraged to attend the branch AGM. Some meetings will take place in person and others will take place via Microsoft Teams. Members are welcome to attend any of the meetings, but if you are attending one of the meetings at Loxley house please let us know in advance if you do not have I.D. access to the building. Links to the Teams meetings are below. **If you have received this newsletter by post it means we do not have an up to date email address - please contact the branch with your email address and the link will be emailed to you** - email [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or phone us on 0115 8762441.

Date & Time	Venue	Room
Tuesday 11 March 2025 12.30pm & 5.30pm	Teams Meetings	Link to meetings: <a href="#">12.30pm</a> <a href="#">5.30pm</a>
Wednesday 12 March 2025 11.00am - 3.00pm	Woolsthorpe Depot	Break-out Area Drop-in Session
Thursday 13 March 2025 12.00 noon & 5.00pm	Loxley House	Room LH2.31 (2nd floor)
Friday 14 March 2025 10.30am - 3.00pm	Eastcroft Depot	UNISON Portacabin Drop-In Session

During the meetings Branch Officers, Stewards, Health & Safety Reps and Union Learning Reps elections take place and the Annual Report and Financial Accounts are received. The Annual Report details the work the Branch has focused on over the past year.

**BRANCH ELECTIONS**

All elections take place annually. The period of office is 1/4/25 - 31/3/26. All posts are open to job share. UNISON is a representative democracy which means members elect other members to represent them both inside the union, and with employers at local, regional and national level.

Departmental Organisers and Senior Reps (who must first be nominated as Stewards), are then elected by the Departmental Stewards at their first meeting following the AGM.

Since the pandemic and change in working arrangements for many members it may be difficult for nominees to get workplace colleagues to physically sign their Nomination Form, so nominees are able to ask colleagues to support their nomination by email.

**AGM AGENDA**

- Receive the minutes of the AGM held in March 2024
- Ratify Branch Officer, Steward, H & S and ULR Nominations
- Elect delegates to National Delegate & Local Government Conferences
- Receive the Annual Report and Financial Accounts
- Update on Public Sector Cuts
- Any Other Business

**SPEAKERS  
12.30 MEETING 11 MARCH**

Speakers from the Save Our Services Campaign Group have been invited to the meeting - they will give an update about their work and let you know how you can get more involved

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2025

### NOMINATIONS

A Nomination Form can be found on page 8. All forms should be returned to the branch by **31 January 2025**. Forms should be emailed to [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or posted to the UNISON Office, First Floor, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG. Where nominees have been supported by email, these should be attached to the Nomination Form.

### BRANCH OFFICERS

All Branch Officer posts are listed in the box opposite. Details of each post can be found in the UNISON Rule Book- <https://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-rganisation/rulebook/> Nominees must be proposed and seconded by any two members. If you require further information please contact the Branch Secretary.

### STEWARDS AND HEALTH & SAFETY REPS

Stewards and Health & Safety Reps must be nominated by 10 members in their department / workplace. Where there are less than 10 members then the majority of members should support their nomination.

### UNION LEARNING REPS

As Union Learning Reps are self-nominations they do not need to ask members to support their nomination. Nominees should complete, sign and return their Nomination Form to the branch.

### ALL NOMINATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY 31 January 2025.

Where more than one nomination is received for the same post a vote will be held at the AGM unless both nominees agree to job share. In the event of a vote each nominee has the opportunity to write an election address of no more than 500 words. If any of the Senior Branch Officer posts (see list above) are contested, then a ballot will take place prior to the AGM with the results announced at the meeting. **Late nominations** will only be accepted if no nominations for the post have been received by 31 January 2025. If you have any queries about the nomination process please contact the Branch Office.

### MOTIONS

Motions must be submitted by email to [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) by **31 January 2025**. All motions should include a Proposer and Secunder.

### FACILITY TIME

Facility time is negotiated separately with each employer. At Nottingham City Council (NCC) up to four hours per week facility time is available for Stewards, Health & Safety and Union Learning Reps. Additional facility time is provided for NCC Departmental Organisers and Senior Reps which is proportionate to the membership in that department. Elections for these posts take place at the departmental Stewards meeting following the AGM. If you would like to know if there is a facility time arrangement with your employer please contact the Branch Secretary.

### SENIOR BRANCH OFFICER POSTS

Branch Secretary \*  
Assistant Branch Secretary  
Chair  
Vice-Chair  
Health & Safety Officer \*  
Learning Co-ordinator \*  
Service Conditions Officer \*  
Treasurer

\* Facility time currently attached to post if postholder is employed by NCC. If not, then facility time cannot be guaranteed.

### BRANCH OFFICER POSTS

Communications Officer  
Education Officer  
Environmental Officer  
Equalities Co-ordinator  
International Relations Officer  
Labour Link Officer  
Retired Members Secretary  
Welfare Officer  
Women's Officer  
Self Organised Group Officers (SOG's):  
Black Members  
Disabled Members  
LGBT+ Members  
Young Members Officer

The Labour Link Officer can only be nominated by members subscribing to UNISON's Campaign Fund (APF), the Retired Members Secretary can only be nominated by retired members and the SOG Officers can only be nominated by members who are part of that particular group

## NATIONAL DELEGATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES - LIVERPOOL - JUNE 2025

UNISON's Local Government Conference will take place on Sunday 15 & Monday 16 June 2025 and the National Delegate Conference will follow from Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 June 2025. The conferences will take place at the ACC Liverpool Centre, Kings Dock Street, Liverpool. We are entitled to send five delegates to each conference. Delegates must be proportionate to, and representative of our membership and therefore as the largest majority of our members are women, our delegation must include at least four women, one of whom must be low paid (earning less than £13.56 per hour). Our delegation must also include a young member (aged 30 or under at date of conference).

All accommodation and travel costs are met by UNISON and if you have children to care for you are able to take them with you as a crèche is provided. All first time delegates will be invited to a briefing prior to the conference. **All delegates are required to provide a brief report following the conference which is distributed to the Branch Executive Committee.**

**If you would like to be considered to attend one of the conferences please e-mail [susan.chettle@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:susan.chettle@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) by 31 January 2025. Please include whether you are eligible for the Low Paid Female or Young Member Seat.**

A vote will take place at the AGM if there is more interest than places available. Further details can be found at [Events | UNISON National](#)

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

UNISON Living offers members a whole range of benefits including deals on travel and holidays, insurance, motoring, health, money advice, and a whole lot more - find out more at the links - **Membership Benefits** - <https://benefits.unison.org.uk/>. **Legal Services** - <https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/> **There for You** - <https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>

**UNISON Debt line** is a free, confidential debt advice service that can help you deal with all sorts of debt. Call freephone 0800 389 3302 - more details at [Help with debt | There for You \(UNISON Welfare\) | UNISON National](#)

**Quilter Financial Advisers** offer a free, no obligation initial consultation with an expert financial adviser to discuss your circumstances and find out how you could benefit from financial advice. They can help with: **savings and investments, planning for your retirement, making sure your mortgage deal is right for you, protecting you and your loved ones.**

Call: 08000 85 85 90, Email: [QFAinfo@quilter.com](mailto:QFAinfo@quilter.com), [Visit the website to find out more and book.](#)

## IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS ARE UP TO DATE

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOUR PERSONAL OR WORK DETAILS CHANGE; OR UPDATE YOURSELF AT <https://www.unison.org.uk/my-unison/>

MADE REDUNDANT OR DISMISSED - UNEMPLOYED MEMBERSHIP COSTS JUST £4.00 PER YEAR (max 2 years)

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP - £15.00 FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY POST, PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU CAN RECEIVE REGULAR UPDATES - EMAIL US AT [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

# UNISON Needs You!

UNISON Local Government Branches, support members working in councils and the private, voluntary and independent sector. We represent members in council officers, care homes, libraries, schools, leisure centres, housing, waste depots, planning, children's services, day centres, peoples homes and many other workplaces. Our members were at the forefront of keeping people safe and delivering services during the pandemic and continue to do so.

Across our workplaces, UNISON representatives work hard, speaking up for our members and making sure they are kept safe and treated fairly.

**This is an invitation to ask you to join the team of representatives at Nottingham City UNISON Branch as we need more activists to support our work in protecting jobs and services**

UNISON Activists are the most important link between the union and its members. Wherever you work, you are better able to protect your job and your service as a UNISON activist. You don't have to commit a lot of time, or be an expert. A little time and a lot of enthusiasm are all that is needed. Give it a try, you'll be amazed how much you get out of it and how much you can learn.

Want to find out more and become part of our team of Activists to help and support UNISON's members?

Further details about the training provided for activists can be found at:  
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/activists/>

Or contact the Branch Office:  
Tel: 0115 8762441  
Email [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Members in all our workplaces have seen the importance of UNISON as they faced the challenges of the pandemic, job cuts, redundancies and reorganisations, or just needed a bit of help or advice in their workplaces.

UNISON membership means having a say in how your workplace is run, protection from discrimination and keeping you safe when you are at work.

Make the most of your UNISON membership & help your colleagues by becoming a UNISON Steward, Health and Safety Rep or Union Learning Rep.

## BE PART OF A TEAM OF UNISON ACTIVISTS



### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Stewards ensure members have a say over decisions made about their workplace



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Stewards work with members and management to achieve better and safer working conditions



### DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

Stewards develop a range of new skills in leadership, communication, negotiation and many more

**FULL TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROVIDED**

Join online at [joinunison.org](http://joinunison.org) or call free on **0800 171 2193**



## BECOMING A UNISON STEWARD

*“I became a steward as my employer was talking about reorganisations and I knew we had to be part of the discussions.”*

*“I had paid time off to do the training and a mentor in the branch who I still go to if I have any questions.”*



*“As the school rep it meant that the Head Teacher had to talk to me about their plans. So I could put the views of the support staff forward and get their voices heard.”*

*“It has been great learning about our rights.”*

### What does a Steward do:

- ◆ Be a first point of contact for members.
- ◆ Raise issues on members behalf with employers.
- ◆ Gives out information to keep members informed and involved.
- ◆ Keeps UNISON informed of what is happening in workplaces so that issues can be raised locally, and nationally.

### What support will I receive:

- ◆ Training and Development
- ◆ Mentoring provided by the branch
- ◆ Help and advice on solutions to issues
- ◆ Stewards Handbook packed with useful information
- ◆ A weekly Bulletin
- ◆ A special UNISON Activist magazine which offers support to reps.
- ◆ An Organising Space for Activists on UNISON’s website

In Nottingham we have a great team of stewards who work in every type of workplace from care homes to council offices to schools. Branch officers, and regional staff will support you with your training and in your role.

You won’t be on your own. By being a steward you will make sure that no UNISON member is on their own in their workplace. We work as a team.

**No need to commit until you find out more.**

To find out what is involved please contact:-

The branch office at [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

To find out more (including dates of training) visit - <https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/training-for-stewards/>

## SAFETY AND LEARNING IN YOUR WORKPLACE

### HEALTH AND SAFETY - SAVES LIVES

UNISON Health and Safety Reps make a real difference in every workplace. Health and safety includes everything, from stress at work, to safe work stations to asbestos. In many workplaces there is a legal duty to consult the trade union about health and safety.

Health & Safety Reps in your workplace:-

- ◆ Have the right to paid time off for training
- ◆ Have the support of a team of UNISON Health & Safety Reps
- ◆ Have the right to raise issues and be consulted
- ◆ Get involved in investigating potential hazards
- ◆ Consult members on working conditions
- ◆ Support members with complaints about safety
- ◆ Recruit new members



To find out more (including dates of training) visit -  
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/training-health-safety-reps/>

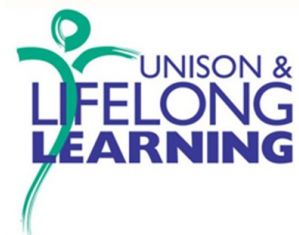
### ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT LEARNING?

Maybe the Union Learning Rep role is for you

UNISON Learning Reps are all about helping members access the learning they want – whether it is professional qualifications or basic numeracy and literacy skills. Further details of the learning opportunities available to members can be found at <https://learning.unison.org.uk/> [Learning for Members | UNISON East Midlands](#)

UNISON Learning Reps:-

- ◆ Promote learning in your workplace
- ◆ Work with the employer to put on learning events
- ◆ Support members to take up learning opportunities
- ◆ Find out how learning could help resolve issues at work



Learning Reps have paid time off for training and to carry out their role, and they will join a team of UNISON Learning Reps in Nottingham. They send out information to members about up and coming UNISON courses and also discuss with members which courses they need, then work with the branch and regional office to arrange them.

To find out more (including dates of training) - visit  
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/learning-reps/>

**AGM NOMINATION FORM APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MEMBERSHIP NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL NOMINEES ARE REQUIRED TO FILL IN THE SECTIONS BELOW, THEN SIGN AND DATE**

**BRANCH OFFICER POST** (please write in name of post) .....

Proposed by (Name) ..... Signature .....

Seconded by (Name) ..... Signature .....

**STEWARD**

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**UNION LEARNING REP**

**EMPLOYER..... DEPARTMENT/SECTION .....**

**WORKPLACE:** .....

**Email:** ..... **Tel:** .....

**HOME ADDRESS:** .....

**Email:** ..... **Tel:** .....

Please indicate where you prefer mail to be sent: Workplace  Home

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEWARD AND HEALTH & SAFETY REP NOMINATIONS - PLEASE ASK MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION** 10 members within your section should agree to your nomination. If your section does not have 10 or more members, then the majority of members should agree to your nomination. If it is not possible for colleagues to physically sign your nomination form please ask them to send you an email confirming their support. You should then send these emails to the branch with your Nomination Form.

	Name	Section/Dept	Membership No.	Signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Please return to [unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:unison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) by 31 January 2025