



UNISON

MATTERS

JULY 2010

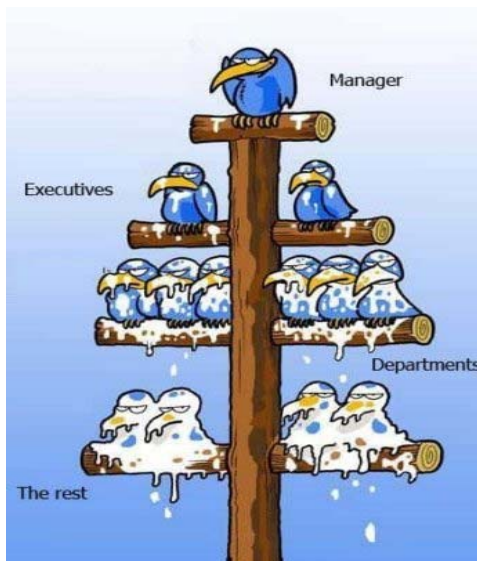
www.seftonunison.co.uk seftonunison@sefton.gov.uk Sefton UNISON: 0151 928 9911

JOB CUTS - COUNCIL BREACH AGREEMENT OF NO COMPULSORY REDUNDANCIES

UNISON this week accused The Council of reneging on an agreement only jointly signed with the council and all three trade unions last month! Having spent months working with the Senior Officers and Elected Members to avoid job losses and set the budget; having balloted our members who chose to accept the incremental freeze, the loss of overtime over SCP 28, the introduction of car parking charges and other reductions that ensured no job cuts for a year—

Imagine if UNISON tore up an agreement on which the ink was hardly even dry?!

what have the Council done? They have torn up that agreement, before they even know what the total budget for this and next year will be, and announced 60 compulsory redundancies!!!



JOB CUTS - COMING IN DECEMBER 2010.

At the time 2 of the three political parties voted to devastate up to 60 people's lives by slashing their jobs, the Council did not know the exact budget figures for this or next year—and indeed still do not. With additional monies likely to be made available in July, and the Comprehensive Services Review not due until October, the decision, despite Labour Group opposition, was voted through. Despite millions in the Council's reserves, despite millions in the local schools' reserves, despite still managing to pay off Senior Officials hundreds of thousands of pounds, job cuts were agreed.

Whilst the politicians locally blamed Central Government and Westminster blame the former government—the real victims are low paid staff.

UNISON BELIEVES THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO JOB CUTS

This is Our Time



General Secretary, Dave Prentis announced a National Ballot for action if attacks on our

Pensions occur and said that any Branches opposing Job Cuts will receive the full backing of our Union—this is now happening in Sefton—As Dave said: 'This is our time!'

Council 'Committed to working with UNISON'!!



- Council tear up collective agreement they signed with UNISON
- No Consultation re Job Cuts

- UNISON not invited to Staff Roadshows
 - UNISON denied access to detail of job cut proposals
 - Timetable for redundancy notice given then retracted
 - Numbers on formal notice to be 'massaged'
- Imagine if they were not committed.....!!**

Some of The Alternatives

- Talk to the Unions
- Delay further Capital Projects
- Insist schools use Reserves to finance schools jobs threatened
- Review Contract costs with aravato and Capita Symonds
- Slash procurement costs
- Renegotiate prudential loans
- Delay cuts until full budget is known
- Use natural wastage from workforce planning strategy
- Use Council financial reserves
- Sell off assets—buildings etc
- Value the workforce.
- Talk to the Unions

UNISON – WORKING HARD TO SAVE JOBS and PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES.

Fighting For Jobs Is Not A Crime



Sefton UNISON is by far the biggest union you can join - why not join us?

With the ‘Cammy Nickers’ Coalition attacking ordinary workers and the local ConDem politicians of Sefton adopting their ruthless slash and burn policy on public servants, UNISON has responded by doing the following:

1. Presented a range of alternatives to the Council—some of which are being considered.
2. We have insisted we are given full details and proper, transparent dialogue with the report writers and decision makers.
3. The Stewards’ Committee has approved a ballot of our Membership to find out what action will be taken to defend jobs
4. UNISON has written to the other two unions who are equally clear they may have to ballot in opposition to job cuts
5. National, Regional and local UNISON support is being developed with other trade unions and community groups to ensure a coordinated response to these threats to services and staff.
6. Sefton UNISON will not abandon its members faced with the tragedy of compulsory redundancy.

WHAT CAN I DO TO OPPOSE JOB CUTS?

- 1/ Please write to your local MP and Councillors urging them to explore alternatives to and oppose job cuts, UNISON will provide template letters upon request.
- 2/ Attend any Meetings or events called by UNISON. Watch out for the purple T-Shirts!
- 3/ Attend the Senior Management Roadshows and ask how many of their jobs are at risk!
- 4/ Put 29th September in your diary. European TUC Day of Action against Public Sector Cuts
- 5/ Check out our website for regular up-dates: www.seftonunison.co.uk
- 6/ Recruit a Colleague - 60 jobs at present but with potential for 700 job losses already being suggested, we need to act together.

29th September - European TUC Day Of Action Against Cuts in Public Services - details to follow



UNISON Activists (left) - coming to a workplace near you! Watch out for purple T-Shirts and a wide range of activities planned for the next few months!

JOB EVALUATION
 UNISON is still working through a range of ‘snags’ with the Council
 The Council will not begin to hear Appeals until early October. If you have not already done so and wish to discuss an Appeal, please contact the Branch Office:
928 8811

GOSSIP COLUMN

This section has become the most talked about part of the Newsletter! It is used to report ongoing gossip around the Council that we are trying to get clarification on. The purpose of this section is NOT to perpetuate such gossip but ensure we get clarity. The current ones for this month are as follows:

- Redundancy and Pension packages enhanced - but only if you are a very senior officer of the Council!
- **No such thing as a ‘free lunch’ - of course unless you are a senior officer of the Council on in-house training**
- **‘Keep it in the Family’** - we have received numerous reports of Senior Figures within the Council ‘recruiting’ members of their family and even partners into Council Jobs. We can only hope usual recruitment policy is applied, but are interested to hear your stories.
- **Flower Power** - It is rumoured that a ban on watering plants in Council Offices has been imposed by the CEO that is of course except for her own Office!
- Former Deputy CEO ‘encouraged’ to leave after suspension and warning against private contractors taking over Council Services.

