

# No to a 36 hour week!



## Fighting for a fair review

On 12th June, your UNISON Branch was informed that the Authority planned to impose a 36 hour working week on all staff, from 1st July. We are fighting to stop them and bring them back to the table.

As part of the job evaluation and harmonisation package agreed last year, you may recall that a review would be undertaken to look at the affordability of all staff moving to a 35 hour working week. The Council claims to have conducted its own review and has reached the conclusion that all staff should in fact be on a 36 hour working week!

**THIS MEANS THAT SOME STAFF WILL BE ASKED TO WORK AN HOUR MORE EVERY WEEK FOR NO MORE PAY!**



UNISON believe that a move to a 35 hour working week is affordable and will challenge the employer to conduct a fair and proper review to identify where budget cuts can be made to fund this.

Branch secretary Joe Taylor commented:

“ We will not allow the employer to simply impose this – even if we got a 1% pay rise and not the 2% they have budgeted for, they can afford to harmonise everyone on 35 hours.

“We are due to meet with the employer this week and will be asking them to halt this change and conduct a proper and open review, giving consideration to the proposals we have put to them.”

Find out what you should do overleaf.....

### Remember:

**We need to stand together and show the Authority that UNISON members will fight against this damaging cut to our terms and conditions!**

### What UNISON will be asking them to do:

UNISON representatives meeting with the Authority this week will demand:

- Withdraw the current proposals to impose a 36 hour working week
- Review the implementation of the harmonisation agreement to date
- Review all departmental budgets to identify where savings can be made
- Use the savings that would come from a pay rise lower than budgeted for to harmonise all staff on a 35 hour week

# What happens next?

Officers of the Branch met on Monday 29 June to form a campaign committee to ensure that the employer gets the message that UNISON does not accept this change to our terms and conditions.

## What can you do to be part of the campaign?

Your local steward will have information and updates on the situation and you should let them know your thoughts.

You should also let the employer know that you are opposed to the enforcement of changes to your contract of employment.

You can write to Steve Maddox, Chief Executive and Council Leader Councillor Steve Foulkes at Town Hall, Brighton

Street, Wallasey, Wirral, Merseyside, CH44 8ED.

You might want to include the following points:

- You have received the letter from the Authority about the change in working hours and you want to object to the change
  - That the harmonisation agreement states that a review will take place before moving to 36 hours if agreement cannot be reached with trade unions, but no review has taken place
  - That as a member of staff you have been working hard to play your part to help the Council to meet year-on-year savings
- That this move will lose the goodwill of workers, who are paying the price for a lower than average council tax rise and the ill-fated SAR project
  - That you expect your employer to negotiate with UNISON on this matter
  - You should also contact the HR helpline number given in the letter from the Authority on 0151 691 8056 and make the same comments
  - Make sure that all your colleagues join UNISON – our strength is in our numbers and our ability to stand together against the employer

## You have to be in it to win it!

It is crucial that UNISON members stand together to fight and the more members we have the stronger we are.

If you are not a member and you are reading this, there are a number of ways in which you can join.

- Ask the UNISON steward in your workplace for a membership form
- Join on-line at [www.unison.co.uk](http://www.unison.co.uk)
- Call UNISONdirect on 08453550845 and ask them to send you an application form

