



Comprehensive Spending Review/Cuts Bulletin No.1 January 2011

To all members/ reps/ contacts

Dear colleague.

This is the first of a number of Bulletins I will be sending out both electronically and hard copy for those who want them as part of my commitment to keeping members as fully briefed as we can on the budget crisis and the talks that are ongoing with the City Council.

Meetings with the Council

The Branch has had 4 meetings, starting as far back as the CPR announcements in October and have tried to meet fortnightly since then. We have now moved to weekly meetings at the Civic Centre on Friday Mornings. The last meeting was Wednesday 5th January, with further meetings early in February and March. I have reported verbally back to each Branch Committee. October's was quorate but November and December were not, which meant that no decisions were formally taken. There will also be regular Officer meetings in between the Branch Committees.

If you have a rep

If you have a UNISON rep then you need to ask them what they know about the current situation and what information they have had from the branch office. You may want them to give you verbal feedback from the Branch Committees we hold. All of this can assist you in getting a picture of how things are going. If you do not have a rep, maybe you could become one or at least a contact and we can put you on a special mailing list.

What we doing now

Our position at the moment is to gather more information from the employer as to where the council spends its money and can we find savings that will off-set against compulsory redundancies and have sent

out updates via e-mail to reps and contacts and those members on our branch e-mail list. When we get the formal responses we will let reps have the information. We have asked about 20 or so questions on What pots of money exist for various expenditure.

We have asked all members to update their personal contact details to improve our communications to you and I urge that you check your mail and if you see a small yellow card asking for your details that you fill it in and return to us.

Branch Web Site

Our Branch web site is regularly being updated and you can find a number of useful documents on there which can show the Government's formula Funding figures for Salford, the guidance issued to branches negotiating with the employer and the Council's own initial budget report that was given to us early November. Go to www.salfordcityunison.org.uk

Our Branch Office will be increasingly busy with members seeking advice on their own personal circumstances as the picture becomes clearer on the cuts, so I have placed on the web site and ask again here that if members are experiencing problems we may be stretched to represent at meetings but will certainly do all we can to give quality advice to you in assisting you if you have worries or want to take out a grievance against the employer.

Financial Situation

The Financial situation is that the Council are looking to make budget cuts of around £47 Million in this financial year alone. If this happens then the likely impact will be several hundred job losses, together with the removal of Essential Car User allowance, reduction in compensation as a result of a reduction in earnings, Car Parking charges for staff on Council car parks and removal of travel allowances for staff relocated and incurring additional travel costs.

Your views

At some point soon UNISON will be engaging with members to gauge our members' feelings on the range of proposals and to see what our members feel most strongly about. Members may share some similar views but also may hold very different views on the proposals. We will do all we can to take stock of the collective responses we get.

Ray Walker
Branch Secretary
Salford City UNISON