

July 2010

UK Leadership Elections

The Labour Party has announced the timetable for the election of a new UK party leader. Nominations have closed and there are five candidates: Diane Abbott, Ed Balls, Andy Burnham, David Milliband and Ed Milliband. Ballot papers will go out at the start of September to all UNISON members who pay the Labour Link levy and the result will be announced on 25 September.

There have been a number of hustings events across the UK, including one in Scotland on 13 June, as well as media events. There will be a special UNISON hustings at the UK Labour Link Forum in Leeds on 2 July to enable the candidates to respond to the issues that matter to UNISON members. A recording of this event will be available on the UNISON UK website.

UNISON can make a supporting nomination and a decision on this will be taken by the UK Labour Link Committee at its meeting on 21 July. This will be UNISON's recommendation to members on the candidate we believe will best reflect UNISON's values and take the Labour Party forward.

Scottish representatives on the UK Labour Link Committee would welcome views from members on which candidate UNISON should support. Branch Labour Link Officers are therefore encouraged to consult members. Feedback should be sent to Malcolm Burns (m.burns@unison.co.uk) by Friday 16 July at the latest.

STULP Workplace Agenda 2011

The Scottish Labour Party is at the 2nd stage of the policy process that will determine the policy programme and manifesto for the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections. A consultation paper has been circulated (available on the SLP website) and responses have to be submitted by the end of July.

Attached to this mailing is a copy of the response agreed by all the affiliated trade unions through the Scottish Trade Union Labour Party committee (STULP). It sets out the trade union vision for the manifesto and detailed proposals on the issues raised in the consultation paper. It also includes the key policy priorities that UNISON Scotland are promoting as part of our manifesto project, **Scotland 2011** (<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/publicworks/manifesto2011.html>)

Copies have also been circulated to every CLP and printed copies are available from Dave Watson.

Candidate Selection

The selection procedure for a number of seats is currently taking place, with priority given to potentially winnable constituencies. UNISON has nomination rights in these selection contests and Branch Labour Link Officers will be consulted over nominations. Our policy is to support UNISON members and others who share our values and can effectively promote issues of concern to UNISON members in parliament. Early congratulations to UNISON Regional Organiser, Matt McLaughlin, who has been selected for Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley.

Get in touch, get involved

For further details about Labour Link Scotland contact Dave Watson d.watson@unison.co.uk.

Do you know who your local Labour Link Officer is? Or where and when meetings take place? Do you want regular email bulletins with information about campaigns and other activities? **If you want get more involved or to sign up for the e-bulletin, email Malcolm Burns m.burns@unison.co.uk or call 0141 342 2811.**