

October 2009

## Million Voices for Change - Public Works

UNISON Scotland has launched its 'Public Works' campaign with the message that public service cuts will increase costs for ordinary families and will delay economic recovery. 'Public Works' is the Scottish arm of the union's 'Million Voices for Change' campaign.

UNISON has warned that the headlong rush to cut and privatise public services will lead to delays in coming out of recession. It has produced a leaflet demonstrating the importance of public services to everyone's lives and pointing to the huge costs that would fall on people if public services were not available.

The 'A Day in the Life' leaflet follows an average woman through her day and points out our dependence on public services - from water and sewerage, through environmental health and refuse collection, to education and health care. It points out that all of us rely on public services, not just the most vulnerable, for whom they can be a lifeline. <http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/publicworks/index.html>

Scottish Labour MSP's have been quick to add their support to the campaign, including shadow cabinet members, at an event in the Scottish Parliament during trade union week. The UNISON Scotland Labour Link Committee also met recently in Parliament to promote the campaign. They were joined by the Convenor of the UNISON Group of MSPs, Karen Gillon MSP to consider how best to build these ideas into the Scottish Labour manifesto for 2011.



Shadow Environment Secretary Sarah Boyack MSP

## Scottish Parliament Candidate Selection

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has now confirmed the revised constituency boundaries for the Scottish elections in 2011. The list areas are still to be finalised. As a consequence the Scottish Labour Party has asked CLPs to begin the process to re-select sitting MSPs and select candidates for those seats with no sitting Labour MSP. All re-selections should be completed by Christmas.

UNISON is affiliated to all CLPs in Scotland but they are organised on the Westminster constituencies. The rules therefore provide that UNISON is entitled to make an affirmative nomination for every branch that is affiliated to any CLP that covers the Scottish Parliament constituency, providing that the branch has members residing within that Scottish Parliament constituency.

CLPs should send nomination papers to UNISON House who will forward the documentation to the relevant UNISON Branch Labour Link Officers. They should consult and advise UNISON House if they do not wish to confirm the sitting MSP or indicate if they wish to nominate a particular candidate if there is an open selection. The detailed process will be explained in the covering letter.

The July edition of Labour Link News explained the arrangements for the UNISON panel of candidates. Application forms for the panel can be obtained from Dave Watson [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk)

# Last call for the 2009 Forum

The UNISON Scotland Labour Link Forum will be held on Saturday 7 November 2009 in Glasgow starting at 10:30am and finishing with lunch. There will be workshops on campaigning and key issues for the 2011 manifesto as well as a panel of MPs and MSPs. A morning of political debate is on offer and members are welcome to come along. Contact Malcolm Burns to register for this event [m.burns@unison.co.uk](mailto:m.burns@unison.co.uk)

## Glasgow North East By-Election

Willie Bain is the Scottish Labour candidate in this Westminster by-election that will take place on 12 November. The campaign centre is located in the old North Glasgow College building on Flemington Street, Springburn, Glasgow G21 4BX (tel. 0141 558 7432). There is always something to do – canvass, phone or leaflet delivery, so if you have some time please pop along. [www.williebain.com](http://www.williebain.com)

## New Shadow Cabinet

Scottish Labour Leader Iain Gray has announced a reshuffle of his Shadow Cabinet. The main changes include Jackie Baillie at Health, Des McNulty at Education and Michael McMahon taking over the local government portfolio. At shadow minister level new faces include Cathy Peattie (Climate Change), James Kelly (Community Safety) and Charlie Gordon (Transport). Full details at:

[www.scottishlabour.org.uk/the-scottish-shadow-cabinet](http://www.scottishlabour.org.uk/the-scottish-shadow-cabinet)

## Strengthening Local Parties

A key recommendation of the Task Group established after the 2007 elections was to review what type of local party organisation is needed to maximise political debate and campaigning at local level. The basic Scottish Labour Party structure has remained largely unchanged for a generation and arguably is no longer appropriate given the political, social and technological changes in recent years.

A consultation pack has been issued seeking views on branch structures and how we can better co-ordinate the Westminster, European, Scottish Parliament and local council structures that all operate on different constituencies. The paper also seeks views on how the trade union link can be strengthened at local level. Views to Dave Watson [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk)



Cathy Peattie MSP

## Political Fund Effectiveness

UNISON is conducting a review of political fund effectiveness following on from a decision at the National Delegate Conference in 2008. The consultation paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/18617.pdf>

The UNISON Scotland Labour Link Committee has prepared a draft response and there will be a further discussion at the Forum in November.

## Scottish Policy Forum

Submissions to the first stage consultation process leading to the 2011 manifesto close at the end of October. These will then be considered by the policy commissions and then by the Scottish Policy Forum on 21 November. Second stage documents will then be drafted for the spring conference. UNISON Scotland submissions will be posted on our website <http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink/index.html>

## Scottish Labour Party Conference

The normal cycle of party conferences will be changed over the next two years to accommodate the UK and Scottish elections in 2010 and 2011. Instead of usual three day conference in March the following has been agreed:

One day Spring Conference on Saturday 27 March 2010

Three day Annual Conference in October/November 2010

One day spring Conference in March 2011.

## Get in touch, get involved

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](mailto:m.burns@unison.co.uk) or call 0141 342 2811.**