

# SUPPORT MOTION 123

## It's as easy as 1-2-3 to put the future of our union back in our hands

Since 2010 Tory-led governments have inflicted vicious cuts on the public sector and its workforce. The resistance to these attacks has come largely from UNISON branches, which are an ever more important part of the union for our members.

Branches provide vital individual representation; support through restructures, TUPE transfers and collective negotiations. We lead in local campaigning, member recruitment, and the most effective communication with members.

The number of employers leaving national pay arrangements and the fragmentation of the workforce through outsourcing highlight both our weakness as a trade union, but also the transfer of activity from the national to the local.

**Unfortunately, UNISON's structures and distribution of resources have not adapted to these new challenges.** Three-quarters of member subs still rest with the national and regional offices. Less than one quarter goes to the branches that do the work our members rely on.

Motion 123 will change that. It is not a dry motion about finances best left to Branch Treasurers. The union's resources and where they go are integral to our successes or failures as a union. Passing 123 is vital to our future success as a union.

Motion 123 will:

- Promote real devolution of resources to branches;
- Quickly boost by 5% the retention formula for branches currently without significant general reserves;
- Leave branches' other percentage enhancements unchanged;
- Set up a review of *national and regional* activity so lay activists can re-prioritise that expenditure, freeing up resources where they are needed most in branches.

**For a fighting union, punching its weight, support Motion 123!**

In solidarity,

Barnet, Camden, Lambeth, Manchester, Salford City, and West Sussex branches.

# REJECT MOTION 121

## Why oppose Motion 121?

### MOTION 121 WILL:

- Hand new powers to unelected officials through the budget and activity approval process. Why should a budget set by a Branch Committee for activity within UNISON rules need a regional official's approval?
- Create prolonged bureaucratic conflict within the union, as branches refused a paid official's approval will be forced to use vital time on appealing. Other lay members will need to give up time to form appeal committees.
- Make branches subject to year-by-year funding agreements. This will not allow for stable and fair employment of branch staff, and is something national and regional officials would rightly refuse to tolerate for the staff they manage.

### MOTION 121 WILL NOT:

- Address the imbalance in the distribution in UNISON resources, leaving them far from where members really need them;
- Allow scrutiny of how effectively national and regional officials spend 75% of our members' subs – though there will be substantial and increased interrogation of how branches spend their 25%;
- Address the two-tier employment practices across our union, where many branches lack adequate funding to pay staff on UNISON terms & conditions.

The Barnet, Camden, Lambeth, Manchester, Salford City and West Sussex branches were invited to UNISON HQ in April to meet Assistant General Secretaries Liz Snape, Cliff Williams and NEC members. We had thought it a positive meeting, seeking common ground, and were invited to submit amendments to Motion 121. We tried to amend key aspects of 121, but the Standing Orders Committee has ruled out every one of our amendments. The branches were then invited to a further meeting to discuss a possible Composite. The branches put forward a proposal, and HQ put forward a counter-proposal, but it has not proved possible to come to agreement.

Delegates: the choice is clear – reject motion 121, **support motion 123**