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"Once more unto the breach my friends once more!"

(Henry V Act 3 Scene 1 by William Shakespeare)

I was visiting a close friend and trade union activist this week, just before she begins the biggest fight of her life with cancer. We had a good chat, she is very experienced trade unionist and we eventually got talking about the attacks to public services and pensions.

She has a very clear message to members who are facing **cuts, redundancy, and privatisation**

"If you fight, you may win or you may lose, but if you don't fight, you've already lost."

Or as **Laurence Oliver** said in [1941](#) or if you prefer the **Klingon** version [here](#)

Don't mess with our Pensions !

UNISON actuarial report warns of 'death spiral' to Pension Fund from mass outsourcing 'One Barnet' programme.

In wake of concerns about the Barnet Councils One Barnet mass outsourcing policy, UNISON commissioned a report on the ***'Potential impact of reduced active membership of the London borough of Barnet Pension Fund'***

The report makes scary reading for residents, staff and councillors:

"The net cash flow position of the Fund could reduce from around **£22.9 million** (positive) in 2010 to between **£16.9 million** (positive) and **£25.0 million (negative)** in 2012. Opt outs as low as 40% could result in a move from the Fund being **cash positive to cash negative**.

The Fund had a deficit (i.e. the difference between the assets and the liabilities) of **£190 million** as at 31 March 2010, which was partly as a result of the wiping out of around **£27 million** of the Fund's assets following the **collapse of the Icelandic bank**. The **Council is currently paying around £10.7 million a year** to clear this deficit

The combined impact of the lower assets and higher liabilities will increase the deficit and could **almost double the Council's deficit contributions to £19.7 million a year** from 2013. This is ultimately a **cost to the taxpayer**.

"A significant shift in **outsourcing policy** by Barnet Council set against a backdrop of **mass opt-outs** expected as a result of Government's proposals to increase member contributions in the LGPS from April 2012, could lead to a **significantly reduced active** membership of the Fund."

At tonight's Pension Fund Committee (**Thursday 1 September**), [Agenda Item 9](#) reports the Council have **£7 million less** than they thought they had.

"The overall effect of the adjustments listed below is to decrease Fund assets by £7.0m (Agenda 9)

On **22 June 2011** Pension Fund Committee were informed Barnet Homes had not noticed the Bond for Connaught's Plc had [lapsed](#). The consequence is an unplanned **£1.492 million bill to Barnet council taxpayers**

The **'One Barnet programme'** is not a new political ideology, it is a rehashed version of the **'contracting out madness'** of the 1980's which damaged public services and destroyed the lives of the a workforce abandoned to unscrupulous employers.

We have already had a warning of what could happen to our Pensions with outsourcing. Between 2000 and 2004 hundreds of council care workers were *TUPE transferred out of the council to Fremantle Trust and Housing 21, there are very few TUPED staff still contributing to the Fund.

[Three years](#) ago UNISON raised the risk to the Pension Fund, however until now the Council have fobbed off our concerns. That all changed at the **Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting June 22 2011** a report entitled ['One Barnet' highlight](#) report was produced. If you scroll down through the document, for the first time you see the Council acknowledges there is a risk.

"Risk Number CP0010

Risk: The negative affect on the Pension Fund due to loss of payees

Consequences of risk: Potentially reduced pension fund thus raising the necessity to find finances from elsewhere”

The Council is playing **high stake risks** with our member’s pensions and council taxpayers future payments.

The Council need to recognise that ‘**political dogma**’ also known as **One Barnet programme** cannot continue to expose residents, services and staff to this high risk strategy and expect them to **pick up** the bill.

Barnet UNISON is asking for the One Barnet programme to be put on hold.

On **Tuesday 13 September** up to [400 UNISON](#) members will be taking strike action as a result of a Trades Dispute UNISON has with the One Barnet programme. They have dubbed the action [Barnet Independence](#) Day.

What ALL members can do - Join mass rally 13 September

The above report from our Actuaries for the first time provides UNISON members with the **serious risks** to **your pension** posed by the One Barnet programme.

As stated in our press release UNISON wanted to talk about this obvious **risk three years** ago. But the Council chose **to ignore** our concerns even as late as July last year.

It is **your pension** and **your future**, make sure **you** join the **mass rally** on [Barnet Independence Day](#) Tuesday, **September 13** from **5.30** outside Hendon Town Hall.

BBBbreaking news – report back from Pension Fund Committee

Last night I attended the Pension Fund committee as the Trade Union observer. I will report back in more detail at our branch meeting next **Tuesday 6 September** but I do need to share some of what took place.

In June the council published this [report](#) which went to Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 June 2011.

A paper will be going to the September Pensions Fund Committee on the position of the procurement Projects within the One Barnet Project, requesting approval for an ‘in principle’ decision on the corporate approach to managing the pension implications. Individual projects will still need to present their in individual specifications to the Pension Committee.

I was attending this meeting to listen to the above presentation. I was fully expecting to hear the Council **recommending** that the continued practice of outsourced services being given access to the pension scheme **would continue**.

Instead at the **last minute** the Council **pulled** this presentation

I strongly objected in the meeting and added that my members were concerned about their Pensions as are **ALL** staff on **ALL** of the One Barnet projects.

What does this mean?

Last night's decisions means that the Council has **chosen not reassure** staff facing outsourcing that their pension will be transferring with them.

Our [Actuaries report](#) exposes what everyone has already believed since the inception of Future Shape, that **there is a negative impact** on our pension scheme from mass outsourcing.

The decision **not to announce** support for pensions to be transferred suggests that the Council maybe considering **not making** this a requirement of potential contractors.

This is at odds with the Councils own risk management issues which states:

“The ongoing viability of the Pension Fund is dependent on maximising contributions to the Fund. “

UNISON agrees with the statement and has made a request for a copy of the report produced by the Councils Actuaries ***Barnett Waddington***.

Our report

The Committee acknowledged receipt of the [UNISON Actuarial report](#) and a discussion ensued as to whether UNISON would be allowed to bring their Actuary to present the report. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the **three opposition councillors** they were overruled and no decision was made to have an extra meeting for UNISON to present our findings.

What next?

UNISON will be looking to provide a series of briefings for members with our Actuary to take members through the report and explain the risks. Please keep a look out for this meeting.

“It is your pension and your fight we need to organise to defend it!”

What do Mr Spock, President Obama and Barnet Council have in common?

To find out click [here](#)

Strike action on Tuesday 13 September – [Barnet Independence Day](#)

The members **taking strike action** on this day work in the following services

Trading Standards & Licensing, Land Charges, Planning & Development, Building Control & Structures, Environmental Health, Highways Strategy, Highways Network Management, Highways Traffic & Development, Highways Transport & Regeneration, Strategic Planning & Regeneration, Cemeteries & Crematoria; Parking Services, Revs & Bens,



Today Barnet UNISON launches Enews Lotto!

Do you receive Barnet UNISON **Enews**?

As from **Friday 2nd September** you can enter our free monthly draw to win a **fantastic** prize of **£50** worth of gift vouchers.

Open and **read** Barnet UNISON Enews then **answer** the question which will be relating to the content.

Email your answer and your **full name** to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

If you answer each weeks correctly prior to the closing date/time you will be rewarded with **5 more** entries to that months draw.

It's that simple

If you are not currently receiving Barnet UNISON Enews simply send an email titled Barnet UNISON Enews and your email address to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

**** Terms and conditions apply see [website](#) for details**

FINAL REMINDER: One Barnet lunchtime briefing - Tuesday 6 September

Barnet UNISON One Barnet briefings will now take place only once a month. It is important that you try to find time in your lunch break to attend the meeting in order you know what is going on.

We are providing a special briefing for all our members on

Tuesday 6 September at 1pm The Oak Room, Building 4, NLBP.

You should know by now about the proposal for strike action on **Tuesday 13 September** which we have dubbed '[Barnet Independence Day](#)'.

This action will be carried out by members working in the following services:

Trading Standards & Licensing, Land Charges, Planning & Development, Building Control & Structures, Environmental Health, Highways Strategy, Highways Network Management, Highways Traffic & Development, Highways Transport & Regeneration, Strategic Planning & Regeneration, Cemeteries & Crematoria; Parking Services, Revs & Bens,

In addition to the strike action we are inviting all our members to participate in a **MASS RALLY** outside Hendon Town Hall on [Tuesday 13 September](#) from 5.30 pm.

Please come along to support your fellow UNISON members

If anyone needs reminding as to what we are facing listen to 'Carmel's story' view this short [video](#) clip.

I look forward to seeing you on **6 September**.

Refreshments - Sandwiches and hot drinks will be provided

UPDATE ON NATIONAL PENSION NEGOTIATIONS

It is important for all our members to keep up to date with what is happening in the Pension negotiations.

You can keep up to date here at the national UNISON Pensions web page

<http://www.unison.org.uk/pensions/lgps.asp>

Pension ePetition to defend you Pension please sign

Most union members in a pension scheme will be detrimentally affected by the Government's change to a worse measure for increasing pensions when in payment each year.

For some, this change represents a **15% reduction** in their benefits. Sign up to this e-petition to seek to spark a Parliamentary debate. 100,000 signatures are needed for this purpose

To sign click [here](#)

Pensions and TUPE Branch Meetings in September

🕒 **Weds 7 Sept 1pm** Committee Room 1, **Barnet House**

In light of the imminent proposals to attack our pensions and the council's policy of mass privatisation the branch is providing our members with up to date information on pensions and TUPE.

Come along, bring your lunch and join us to help protect our pensions

10 Key Facts about your Pension Scheme

1. LGPS funds collectively form the biggest single pension fund in the country and fourth largest in the world making it a major shareholder in business and the UK economy. Together the 101 LGPS funds hold more than **£150billion** in investments and assets - enough to pay benefits for over 20 years. More than **four million** people are members of the LGPS in the UK either as active, contributing members, pensioners or deferred members.

To view the rest click [here](#)

Barnet FC 'Kids for Quid' this Saturday

Our local community football team Barnet FC have launched an amazing offer for their game tomorrow.

Click [here](#) for details

Housing benefit ePetition

A call for Iain Duncan Smith to rethink the centralised, IT- dominated service design for the delivery of Universal Credit. Evidence from a significant number of housing benefit offices demonstrates that local, face-to-face processing of benefits is cheaper and faster than distant automated telephone and online processing. Processing claims face-to-face is not only cheaper and faster but an excellent way of ensuring that vulnerable people understand both their entitlement and their obligations. Feedback from claimants is overwhelmingly positive when their claim is dealt with face to face by an expert. If the DWP goes ahead with plans to process the majority of claimants online, they will find many claimants turn to Government-funded welfare organisations, council reception areas, councillors and their MP because the automated system will not be able to deal with their individual questions, particular concerns and unique set of circumstances.

Please sign this petition [here](#)

Barnet College – update on merger, Pensions, meetings

Merger

A quick update that talks about the merger with Southgate College.

Talk will soon be starting soon, your local rep (Christalla) and the regional organiser (Laura) will be attending these meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns please email Christalla.Tsattala@barnet.ac.uk

Future UNISON meeting

15 September Barnet College Wood Street venue Lecture Theatre 12 to 1 pm

Please try to attend.

A date for

Pensions briefing for Barnet College members

Monday 26 September, Hendon Town hall, from 7pm

Refreshments will be provided

“eLOTTO question”

What is the name of the Councils Actuaries?

Updated Petitions

We have some **new petitions** which need your support. Please take **2 minutes** to sign these petitions

[Stop the One Barnet Programme](#)

[Save Friern Barnet Library](#)

[Save Royal Brompton Hospital's children's cardiac services](#)

[The People's Petition for a Million Climate Jobs](#)

[Demand a Public Inquiry into Legionella in Fremantle Care Homes](#)

[Save our NHS](#)

[Save Our Library](#)

[Save Barnet Museum](#)



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Click here [John Burgess](#)

Barnet UNISON Your Friend at Work