

The latest news and announcements from Derbyshire UNISON

Derbyshire County Council

The news from the county council that it is facing 'serious financial difficulties' has obviously worried UNISON members and Derbyshire residents.



Derbyshire County Council 'difficulties' mean we need to stand together

Following closely the troubles at Birmingham City Council and more recent government intervention there, for the second largest county council employer in England to make such an announcement is of great concern.

Contacting Derbyshire UNISON

01629 582266

branch@unisondc.co.uk

derbyshireunison.com



All Derbyshire UNISON members working for the council should have received an email from UNISON explaining exactly what we know so far and challenging the idea that the financial troubles are in any way to do with salaries. (Check junk email/spam boxes if you haven't yet seen it).

The vast majority of local government workers are far too lowly paid. It is the government's slash and burn measures, seeking

short-term financial gains at the expense of everything else, which are to blame. Councils need more money; much of which is going into the profits of businesses providing services for councils! Initial measures being taken by the council of recruitment freezes and cutting back on most agency staff will clearly affect not just on budgets but the services provided and in potential knock-on effects on permanent staff job

roles. UNISON will obviously keep members informed as soon as we know of any other proposals.

But one thing is clear - this is a serious situation. We must prepare to fight back in the future should any job losses - not currently on the table - be announced. To do that, we all need to unite and do two things:

1. Each workplace or workgroup should elect a local UNISON representative. Having clear two-way information exchanges is essential. If no-one steps forward from your team(s), you are depriving yourselves of that.
2. Every current member should set themselves a task of recruiting one or more of their work colleagues. Don't wait until we can organise a stall for your workplace; it's impossible to cover them all! Be pro-active and contact us for membership packs now!

If you want to talk to an organiser about recruiting 'tactics' or how to get more involved, email us at branch@unisondc.co.uk or use the contact form on our website derbyshireunison.com/contact.html

Let's be prepared!