



GMB @ Durham County Council

Welcome to your Spring 2016 Newsletter!

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**GMB Members in Local Government & Schools
Vote "YES" to two year Pay offer.**

**GMB'S Full Ballot of ALL members in Councils,
Schools and most academies closed on 14th March
with a big majority in favour of accepting the offer
from the Employers.**

**However, you may have heard that UNISON and
UNITE members have voted to reject the offer.
The Trade Union side will meet to discuss next
steps.**

TRADE UNION SIDE DISAGREEMENT OVER TWO-YEAR PAY DEAL

Following full membership consultation by GMB, and similar exercises by Unison and Unite, there is a different position among the national trade unions over the two-year pay deal that came about from national negotiations.

GMB members, in a full secret postal ballot, voted by 9-1 on an above average turnout to accept the deal. Unison and Unite, following branch consultations, have both rejected the deal, in Unison's case by 3-2 on a low turnout. This was discussed at a joint trade unions meeting today and a common position could not be reached.

GMB is clear. Our members voted clearly to accept the two-year deal and to get it into pay packets as soon as possible. (Over 2 years the deal is worth 2.4% on the paybill - a 1% increase for most people in 2016 and again in 2017 and between 2.41% and 10% for the lowest paid).

What Unison and Unite seem to be saying is that they would now be prepared instead to accept half the two-year deal, ie the first year of it only. For GMB, we cannot and will not go against the wishes of you our members, whatever other unions might want us to do. But the result is a trade union stalemate.

What will happen next is Unison and Unite will break ranks and offer the Employers half the two-year deal. As far as GMB knows there is no membership mandate for them to do this and there is no guarantee that the employers will respond positively.

The real issue is that in the meantime everyone's pay rise is being delayed and some very good increases for the lowest paid are sitting in the Employers' pocket rather than our members'.

I'm sorry to report such a confused state of affairs. There may be further news with some more meetings planned in early April and I will inform you about those.

Best wishes



Justin Bowden

National Officer - Public Services Section

Join GMB at www.gmb.org.uk/join

Keep your GMB Membership Safe

Switch your GMB Contributions to Direct Debit.

The Tory government continues to aggressively attack member's rights and the trade union movement in general through the introduction of the Trade Union Bill.

Their latest attack is removing the ability for Public sector members to pay their Trade Union contributions from their wages, via the check off system.

With this in mind GMB are now asking members to Switch to Direct Debit.

As an incentive to switch to Direct Debit, between the 1st December 2015 - May 31st 2016

GMB will hold monthly draws for members who switch.

3 x 1 Bottles of champagne every month (Members who switch stay in every Months Draw)

Plus all to go into a draw on the 31st May for £500 Thomson's Holiday Voucher.

To make the switch to direct debit

Call GMB office on 03000 268135

Or e-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk



First Winner
Hazel Bone
From Customer services.
With branch president
Jimmy Jamieson

GMB Last Romania Aid Trip



GMB Had another successful Aid trip to Romania. We would like to Thank everyone who has contributed over the years to the aid trips.



Terry Scarr GMB Senior Organiser and Cllr Alan Napier (Left)

This photo represents the first and Last GMB aid trip.

23 years ago Cllr Alan Napier handed the keys for the Van over to Terry Scarr at Easington District Council for the first GMB aid trip.

This Year Cllr Alan Napier handed the keys over for the last GMB aid trip at Durham county Council.

Some of the Winners from easter Draw



Kevin Thompson from Clean and Green

(Left).

Karen Nixon from the Orchards



GMB Congress 2016 Bournemouth

Branch delegates this year are Les timbey and David Clegg



Durham Miners Gala 2016



Saturday 9th July

Come and March behind your Branch Banner

Meet in the Market Place at 8.30am.



Branch Miners gala Social Night

Saturday 9th July

At the Radisson Blu Durham

Strictly by Ticket Only

**Contact the Branch on 03000 268135 or e-mail
gmb@durham.gov.uk**

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Calls may be recorded. For TextDirect first dial 18001. Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 9am-5pm
GMB acts as an Introducer Appointed Representative to the Liverpool Victoria group of companies for General Insurance.

Keep up-to-date with GMB Facebook

Please **like** the GMB Durham local Authority Branch facebook page to keep up to date with Local and National activities.

With all the cuts facing Local Governments

Now is the time to Join GMB

Contact Branch office on 03000 268135 or email
gmb@durham.gov.uk

Also forms can be downloaded at
www.gmb.org.uk/join

And returned to GMB Office 4th Floor
County Hall Durham DH1 5UY
