Tower Power

The News Sheet of Tower Hamlets UNISON

May 2023 No 333

Pay: Strike Ballot called

Employers offer £2,352, but it's still a cut in real pay as inflation soars



Supporting striking junior doctors outside Whitechapel Town Hall.

The first step in the battle to reverse 14 years of cuts in real pay begins in earnest on 23rd May when the ballot on strike action on NJC pay starts.

UNISON has been campaigning for a decent pay rise for council and school workers and alongside other NJC unions lodged a pay claim for inflation plus 2%. Based on the Treasury's annual forecast for RPI for 2023, this would amount to a 12.7% increase. But the local government employers responded with another measly well below inflation offer of a flat rate increase of £2,352 a year for Inner London, consolidated into pay scales for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

In a cost-of-living crisis this simply is not good enough and another kick in the teeth to hard-working UNISON members who keep schools and vital Town Hall services running and who have seen the real value of their pay fall by 27% since 2008.

UNISON's National NJC Committee voted to reject the offer and move straight to a disaggregated industrial action ballot. It is recommending members vote **Yes** for strike action as it's only by taking action that a better offer will likely be achieved. Other NJC unions are consulting their members.

Enough is enough!

All across the UK we have seen teachers, doctors, nurses, railway workers and more striking and taking to the streets to defend public services, demand pay restoration and calling time on being made to suffer while unprecedented corporate profit booms under the protection of the Tories.

The momentum over pay is ever growing with the 1st February seeing the largest day of coordinated strike action across unions for many years. There is no doubt that the working class is back and we refuse to be poor anymore, so be sure to complete and return your voting paper straight away when it arrives in the post.

It's time to say 'enough is enough' and stop the rot on pay.



Use your vote

- The ballot will run from Tuesday 23rd May through to Tuesday 4th July. You will receive a **voting paper in a RED envelope by mail at the home address** you have provided to UNISON.
- If your vote does not arrive or you need a replacement ballot, call the ballot hotline on **0800 085 7857** – it's open between 5th June and 28th June.
- Nationally only 14% participated in the industrial action ballot on pay in 2021. Despite the ballot supporting industrial action it failed to meet the tough 50% turnout threshold imposed by the Tories. We can't make this mistake again – our pay is too important and since then the cost-of-living crisis has hit. We know from the 2020 Tower Rewards dispute that in Tower Hamlets we can hit the 50% turnout, so let's do it again by ensuring that every single eligible member returns their vote in the upcoming ballot.
- If you have moved and we don't have your current home address or phone number then call the Branch office as soon as possible on **020 7364 5302** or email *Jacqueline.durand@towerhamlets.gov.uk* or *Bernadette.hall@towerhamlets.gov.uk*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- If you feel passionate about getting a decent pay award you can help. We are looking for pay champions who are willing to distribute materials and talk to colleagues and encourage them to vote. We are also looking for volunteers who will help with phone banking. Contact the branch office, details above, if you can help.

John McLoughlin retires as Branch Secretary

The AGM held every March is always the most important Branch meeting of the year. Members elect Branch Officers, approve the accounts, debate motions and reflect on the challenges of the last 12 months. But this year the AGM was somewhat historic: It was the first time it was held hybridly in the Council Chamber of the new Town Hall in Whitechapel with several hundred people participating in person and online.

But most importantly long serving Branch Secretary, John McLoughlin, announced his retirement from the position he had skilfully occupied since 2008. Speeches were given paying tribute to his 34 years of trade union activism in Tower Hamlets and reflecting on some of his many achievements. While declaring an allergy to the comparison, John was described as being 'a bit like the Queen… he's been here forever, and no one can quite imagine life without him!'



Our hybrid 2023 AGM.



Barnstormer – John speaking at the 2014 Defend Democracy rally after Commissioners were imposed on Tower Hamlets.









Decades of activism

John McLoughlin joined Tower Hamlets Council 34 years ago, initially employed as a Benefits Officer in the Old Bethnal Green Neighbourhood. From the start he became active in NALGO and then UNISON, holding several Branch roles, including Convenor, Chair and then Branch Secretary.

Arguably, he has been the individual who continuously has had the highest profile role associated with Tower Hamlets Council over more than two decades in his role as a UNISON officer. Politicians and senior managers have lingered momentarily, come, gone, been paid off, retired or been voted out – while John has outlived them all, appearing in front of committees, cabinets, making media appearances, and undertaking all the tasks associated with his UNISON roles.

Anti-racist fighter for workers rights

A tireless fighter for workers' rights, defender of public services and a campaign organiser in the local community, John has weathered decades of threats and bullying from senior management and some local politicians in standing up for and representing the interests of UNISON members. He has also worked across the community to take forward the union's equality agenda.



A committed anti-racist, John was a key activist in the trade union campaign against the BNP councillor Derek Beackon, elected on the Isle of Dogs back in 1993. He helped lead a wildcat walk out protest by council staff the day after Beackon was elected and the ensuing campaign contributed to the racist councillor's eventual defeat alongside the Liberal majority administration.

Enormous contribution

Never happier than when grasping a microphone, his barnstorming speeches have been a regular feature of life in Tower Hamlets, inspiring many into action.

John's contribution and achievements are too many to list but include: playing a key role in the five-week housing strike of 1999 which saved many jobs and housing offices; during the first phase of Covid he led the branch in a way that meant it was one of the first to give members the confidence to exercise their statutory Health and Safety right to walk out of unsafe school premises, and prior to the first national lockdown, in the Ideas Stores.

A major milestone was Tower Hamlets UNISON being the first Local Government Branch to smash through the Tory anti-union strike thresholds in 2020 to win a strike ballot across the council and schools' workforce during the notorious 'fire and rehire' Tower Rewards dispute with Mayor Biggs and the Labour administration.

And let's not forget in the early 2000s when John helped to 'save Christmas' by leading a strike after the council tried to change contracts to remove all paid concessionary days in between Christmas and New Year. The dispute was won and council staff still retain this benefit.

East End tradition

Tower Hamlets has long been associated with working class individuals who have risked victimisation to fight injustice in the name of equality, social justice and workers' rights. The local Labour movement frequently lauds those individuals and the battles of the borough's past such as the Match girls; Dockers and Jewish labour strikes; the Battle of Cable Street; the Suffragettes and the Poplar rates rebellion – all of whom were vilified at the time by those in positions of power and affluence in the borough who fought against these progressive movements.

John represents a generation of activists who stand in the same tradition as those East End campaigners of yesteryear. His contribution has been enormous, and he has been a role model to the next generation of East End activists.

A revival going on

He told *Tower Power*: "It has been a great privilege to represent UNISON members in Tower Hamlets for over 30 years. I have been lucky to work alongside people who I count as comrades and friends.

"In the East End we stand in great traditions; of working class organisation; of resistance to racism and forces that seek to divide us; of struggle for real equality; and of solidarity locally, nationally and internationally. These thirty years have been ones where we have had to organise in the context of the legacy of Margaret Thatcher's ambitions to dismantle much of our public services, and trade union rights.

"So many struggles come back to mind, the walkout when Derek Beackon was elected as a BNP councillor and the mass campaign to keep out the BNP that transformed the borough; Housing strikers marching from Bethnal Green to Mulberry Place; supporting members through Covid; resisting the imposition of Commissioners; being one of the first branches to beat the 50% ballot threshold over Tower Rewards.

"It's been a rollercoaster and tough at times but when your mettle is tested that is when true strengths come out. Today there is a revival going on in the trade union movement in reaction to the cost-of-living and against ever increasing inequality. I leave the Branch in good hands and I will be with in spirit and body in the struggles that are to come."

The AGM unanimously voted to nominate John for Honorary Life Membership of UNISON and he has also been nominated for the council's staff awards in the Lifetime Achievement category. A retirement function has been arranged with all members invited as a thank you for his many years of committed service.









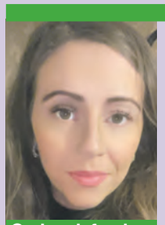
Tower Hamlets UNISON New Branch Officers & Branch Committee members



Kieran: Road runner and safety enthusiast.

Health and Safety Officer – Kieran Floyd

"I've been a Tower Hamlets employee and NALGO/ UNISON member for over 30 years… I'm interested in Health & Safety as it affects all employees at work…. UNISON is at the vanguard of lobbying to protect and promote UNISON members health and safety at work, at national, regional and local level… we need H&S Reps in every workplace and if you are interested, please contact me via the Branch. I can give advice about the role and the training involved, as well as on facility time. In my view, a strong UNISON branch is reflected by the activism of its members to 'stand up' to be a Shop Steward or H&S Rep."


Carly – defender of Early Years services.

Convenor, Children's Directorate – Carly Holmes

Carly, a Family Support Practitioner in the Children's Centres is already well known as an experienced steward. But she is perhaps most famous for her legendary performance at a Cabinet meeting back in 2018 when she took the then Labour Mayor and lead Member to task over their plan to shut all the Local Authority Day Nurseries – a performance which elicited a stomping round of applause from the public gallery. She is stepping up to become the Directorate Convenor: "I have been a member of UNISON and have been supported by the union during my time in the council, so I wanted to take this role on to continue the support for other members in the council and to ensure fairness and equality is upheld."

Other Officers:

JASON CROFT – THH Convenor
MICHAELA KNIGHT – Interim Treasurer
MARCELLO NOVELLO – Communications Officer
AMINA PATEL – Co-Chair + ASC Convenor
MARIO KYRIACOU – Co-Chair and LGBT+ lead
SHOLA OGUNLADE – Equalities Officer
SHARMINE KANABAR – Welfare Officer
VACANCIES: Assistant Branch Secretary (.5); International Officer


New Branch Secretary Kerie – a proud traditionalist.

Branch Secretary – Kerie Anne

Incoming Branch Secretary, Kerie Anne, is a familiar face having worked for the council for 22 years, with 12 of those as UNISON Assistant Branch Secretary. She also chairs the union's National Social Care Forum for England and the devolved nations: "Tower Hamlets UNISON has developed a legendary reputation as a fighting campaigning union branch that works relentlessly to defend and further workers' rights and promote social justice… never cowing to bullying and threats from those in positions of power who attempt to thwart those righteous aims. This is a long tradition established and built on by all its Branch Secretaries. I intend to continue to lead the branch in that same proud tradition. ***Tower Power***, the Branch magazine published now for 40 years also with a legendary status in the borough and the wider trade union movement, will continue on in the same vein, speaking truth to power and exposing local public interest stories that those with vested interests would rather not see the light of day."



Bridgette Galloway.

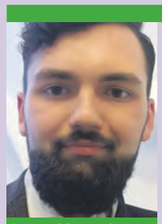
Education Officer – Bridgette Galloway

Bridget joined Tower Hamlets in August 2022 from Southwark Council, where she was a steward and an accredited Health and Safety Officer: "As Branch Education Officer I want to help stewards and activists upskill and to get involved in training not only for the purpose of being reps but also for their own personal growth and development."


Steve Evans.

Assistant Branch Secretary – Steve Evans

An experienced Steward and former Convenor, Steve has supported untold UNISON members over the years with a full range of workplace issues: 'I feel deeply honoured to have been elected to this role and I want to continue to help UNISON members in need. I have always thought that unions and especially UNISON are vital to supporting workers in upholding their rights in the workplace. I look forward to being part of the upcoming fight for better NJC pay for local government and schools' workers and was proud to take part in the strike action against "Tower Rewards".


Isaac Hoeschen – organising the next generation.

Young Members Officer – Isaac Hoeschen

Welcome to Democratic Service Officer, Isaac, who will leading on issues affecting young members. UNISON defines young members as aged 27 or younger and it is has been many years since the role was last filled, so Isaac is keen to get stuck in. The Young Members Officer plays an important role in making sure issues of concern to young workers are raised, helping young members understand the importance of joining the union, and organising and encouraging existing young members to become active in the branch and in UNISON campaigns: "As a person in their 20s living in London, I see every day how people my age is disproportionately unrepresented in the workplace, and as a result are forced to contend with the impending cost of living crisis while the real value of their wages get cut and their benefits are divested from. I became Young Members officer because I believe it is crucial that the next generation of workers understand how necessary union organising is to securing proper treatment and fair pay in the workplace."

Branch Treasurer wanted!

This is an important role in the branch, Mick Knight is helpfully holding the position, but she retires in November, so the hunt is on to find a replacement in good time. It involves about three hours of time a month so is not onerous and full training is provided. You don't have to be a finance or accounting Wizz, just someone who is reliable, can use a computer and wants to make a contribution. Please get in touch with the Branch Office if you want to know more. All enquiries welcome.

Women – the backbone of our union

UNISON's National Women's Conference took place in February. Interim Branch Treasurer, MICHAELA KNIGHT (pictured, right) was there.

"I had the opportunity to attend the National Women's Conference in Bournemouth.

"Being a first-time delegate, I had no idea what to expect but was ably guided through the minor technicalities. The extensive list of motions proposed (and mostly supported and carried) ranged through abortion rights, women's workplace and health issues including the menopause, to unsurprisingly the gendered impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

"In fact, several motions were combined into a composite on this subject and for me it was a real eye-opener.

"It's unavoidable to experience the impact of rising prices along with inadequate wage increases from a local and personal perspective, but quite an education to have the blinkers removed and understand more about the wider-ranging effects of this disastrous economy.

"Although I wasn't moved to speak (this time!) the passionate debate on all motions was inspiring, as was meeting and spending time among so many like-minded women. An experience to be recommended."



Are you interested in attending a UNISON equalities conference?

Part of UNISON's approach to achieving equality is the organisation of groups of members who may themselves face prejudice and discrimination.

UNISON has four self-organised groups – for women members, Black members, disabled members and LGBT+ members.

Each of the four self-organised groups has an annual national conference. These provide a forum where members can debate issues and set priorities for the coming year.

They have an invaluable role in identifying key equality issues for the attention of the wider union.

Get in touch with the Branch office if you are interested in attending as a fully funded branch delegate.

2023 YEAR OF BLACK WORKERS

Establishing legacy to generate change

Generating change

UNISON has declared 2023 as 'The Year of the Black Worker' (YOTBW).

This gives a year-long focus on the important issues that affect Black members. UNISON has 185,000 Black members most of whom work in health and local government services with significant numbers working in social care and schools.

The union's National Black Members Committee intends the YOTBW to be underpinned by a desire to establish legacy to generate change in several areas including: decreasing the ethnicity pay gap; implementing the TUC Anti-Racist Manifesto and the Workplace Race Equality Standard; ending the hostile environment for migrants and implementing UNISON's Race Discrimination Protocol.

At our recent AGM, members passed a motion welcoming the YOTBW with additional action points, such as resolving to encourage and support more Black members into activist leadership roles within the Branch and to support local anti-racist initiatives.



Shola Ogunlade, our Branch Equalities Officer, moving the motion at our AGM.

Branch Equalities Officer, Shola Ogunlade, moved the motion with a passionate speech which was then seconded by steward Jessica Odubayo.

An activist's perspective

By Jessica Odubayo

Events in recent years such as the Covid pandemic and the murder of George Floyd and other racially motivated incidents have highlighted the need for significant changes in policies, attitudes and practices that adversely affect Black workers.

These events and national statistics have shown time and time again that Black workers are more likely to be in low paid jobs and be marginalised and discriminated against in various walks of life.



Jessica: "I encourage all members to get involved and actively support the campaign."

Having worked in Tower Hamlets for several years, I remember racist incidents in the borough that shook the community. I also remember the public hearings for the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry coming to Tower Hamlets.

Almost three decades later some of the detrimental impacts of incidents like these are still being felt by individuals and on our wider communities. I'm delighted that UNISON, through the Year of the Black Worker, is at the forefront of campaigning to 'establish a legacy to generate change.' The YOTBW includes events and a stream of work to create change.

I encourage all members to get involved and actively support the campaign. That's the only way we can help create the real and lasting transformations we want to see for generations to come.

'Remember the dead, fight for the living'

UNISON campaign bears fruit

International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD) on 28th April is a solemn day when we stop to remember all those who have died either because of a workplace accident, ill health or diseases as a result of their work. The theme of the day is 'Remember the dead, fight for the living'.

The Covid pandemic shone a light on the many risks faced by key workers, including in our own council and schools, where we lost colleagues and have others who are living with the disabling impact of long Covid.



UNISON has pressed the council to fly the flag over the Town Hall at half-mast on IWMD as a visible mark of respect to those workers who have died, but this reasonable request has strangely been refused in recent years. Thankfully this year it was agreed and hopefully it will now become an established tradition in Tower Hamlets.

New Town Hall

While many staff are now well settled into the new Town Hall and making use of the improved public transport links, for some it has been a bumpier ride.

Particularly for those with certain disability needs. UNISON is continuing to advise, support, provide representation and help members to make use of the formal Grievance Procedure where reasonable adjustments have not been provided. Blue badge parking for staff has been an issue which the union continues to engage with facilities management about.

While UNISON continues to work generally on these issues, if you are a disabled member and are struggling because adjustments you need have not been provided, then get in touch with your shop steward to discuss the facts of your case and the options available to you.

Schools Power

Time to join pay fight

All state schools in England could be closed by unprecedented coordinated strikes involving all four teachers unions, after their leaders vowed to increase pressure on the government to improve its pay offer to teachers.

This includes the Head Teachers union who are to hold another vote on whether to strike over pay, funding, workload and wellbeing. The NEU have already taken strike action which will continue into the summer. Now UNISON, the largest union for school support staff is about to start balloting its members (see page 1).

School support staff play a vital part in the education of children and are often the lowest paid and the first to lose jobs in restructurings. All Education unions, including UNISON support the demand for all pay increases to be fully funded by the government. We know that support staff roles are the first to be hit where there are budget shortfalls.



Make sure you complete and return your ballot when it arrives in the post. Tower Hamlets UNISON has a hardship fund to support low paid members, such as those in schools, should a strike be called.

Teacher strikes: advice for support staff

Teachers in the NEU have already taken several days of strike action with more likely to come. UNISON has issued detailed guidance to its members who work in school support roles who are not on strike (yet) but want to show support.

Members have been encouraged to show their support by joining picket lines or rallies outside school on strike days and to reassure teacher pickets that they will not be doing anything to undermine the strike.

Some members may feel that they do not want to cross a picket line. Tower Hamlets has confirmed that schools will follow the national Local Government employers' (LGA) advice that anyone who doesn't cross a picket line will be treated as if they are on strike. They will have pay deducted but will not face any disciplinary action.

UNISON school reps have been encouraged to work with teaching union reps to call on head teachers to close schools with good notice, allowing parents to make suitable arrangements and preventing any health and safety risks. If senior managers decide to close schools and advise support staff not to turn up for work there should be no deduction of pay or expectation that additional hours will be worked to make up the time.

Health and Safety

Members should not be pressured to provide cover on health and safety grounds to avoid closure of a workplace. Employers should be reviewing risks and health and safety procedures, including evacuation of workplaces, taking account of the impact of staff taking strike action.

Members employed by Contract Services or other employers

Staff employed by Contact Services (cleaners and school meals) or other employers may be asked to be available for work at other workplaces, or given the choice of taking leave with no pay. If the school is closed it is the employer's responsibility to provide alternative work – and if none is available they must pay staff. Don't be forced to take a day with no pay – unless that is what you want.

Support staff should not:

- Take on any additional responsibilities being given to them directly as a result of the teachers' industrial action.
- Be expected to provide cover for, or take, classes where this would normally be done by teachers who are on strike. In particular, Higher Level Teaching Assistants or cover supervisors should only be taking classes or providing cover where they are contracted to do so, and it is timetabled or part of their normal duties. This applies to virtual provision as well as physical provision.
- Be moved from the duties they would normally have carried out in order to cover classes and frustrate the industrial action of colleagues. Members who are under pressure to cover should contact their union rep or branch for further advice and support.

Fair pay for school meals staff

UNISON is consulting School Meals Staff in outsourced School Meals contracts in Tower Hamlets on whether to ballot for Strike Action on pay.

School meals staff are some of the lowest paid workers in schools. Yet while prices have been going sky high many private companies have offered no pay increase at all. UNISON has called for all employers to pay the same increase as council and schools workers received from 1st April 2022. That is an increase in £2355 full time equivalent for all roles per year, it is an increase of £1.29 per hour, and we will be calling for a further increase from 1st April 2023. UNISON has pointed out that we fully support the Mayor's initiative to extend free school meals to all but the workers providing them cannot be left on poverty pay struggling to feed their own families. As we go to press the final votes have come in and being analysed. Members will be contacted with the outcome and next steps.

Practical solidarity

There has been a resurgence in strike action across the UK as workers refuse to accept continued cuts to real pay, including groups of workers who have never previously taken national strike action like nurses and physiotherapists.

In response the Tory government has threatened tougher restrictions on the right to strike and shown what bullies they are by even refusing to talk to teachers and junior doctors unless they withdraw strike notices. They have gone so far as taking the country's nurses (which they once lauded and clapped during lockdown to court. They hope that public sector workers will not be able to afford to keep striking. That's why solidarity with fellow striking workers is so important. In that vein at the Branch AGM members passed a motion to donate £5,000 to current live disputes, with Branch Officers to determine how to allocate between disputes. The money has already been put to good use, with cheques for £500 each already being presented to striking NEU teachers, the BMA hardship fund to support junior doctors, and the Royal College of Nursing hardship fund.



Branch officers presenting a cheque to striking teachers.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Will-i-am Gone

And just like that, after seven years he was gone.

Staff were informed by way of a curious email in early February announcing that CEO Will Tuckley was on his way out and would be leaving the council by 'mutual agreement' (is that code for a juicy pay-out agreement accompanied by a gagging clause?) The ink must have barely been dry on the speculated said agreement when another email landed with the news that Will had actually already departed and was on annual leave, never to be seen again with not even a 'thanks for the memories' card for staff to sign.

Despite being gone, he certainly won't be forgotten. Will's memorable leadership achievements include being the only council Chief Executive in the UK to fire and rehire thousands of key workers in the middle of the Covid pandemic, his grimacing performance on the BBC's *Six O'Clock News* when grilled about the resulting Tower Rewards strikes, and let's not forget his decision not to attend the ACAS negotiations to try and end the dispute.



Will Tuckley's memorable BBC appearance.

But there's no need to fret about Will being short of cash and out of a job in the middle of the cost-of-living crisis – he was appointed as Brighton and Hove's interim CEO almost immediately after departing Tower Hamlets.

Back to the Future

And just like that, after seven years he was back.

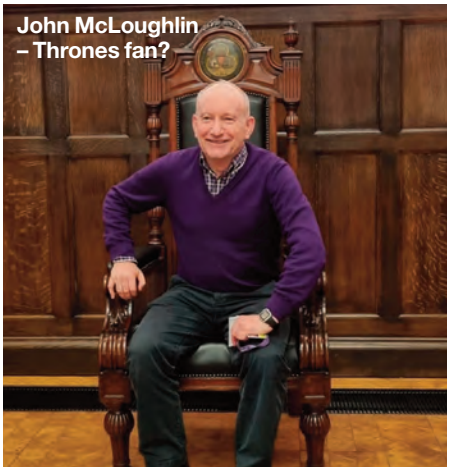
Staff of a particular vintage could be excused of feeling like they'd been caught in a time warp when yet another intriguing email dropped heralding the return of Steve Halsey as interim Chief Executive. Steve, who originally joined Tower Hamlets council in 2007, successfully climbed the greasy pole to become Corporate Director of the now defunct Communities Leisure and Culture Directorate and eventually took the helm in stormy waters as the council's interim Head of Paid Service in July 2012 back when Mayor Rahman locked horns with the majority Labour Party on the council by not filling the vacant Chief Executive post. Underscoring the pay-outs-a-plenty culture which characterises the Chief Officer class in local government, Steve left the council in 2016 also by confidential 'mutual agreement'. The subject of many *Tower Power* articles over his previous tenure in Tower Hamlets, Corridors wonders if Steve is looking forward to once again gracing the front cover.



Blast from the past. Former 'cover boy' – Steve Halsey – front page, Christmas Edition 2013.

Game of Thrones

Whilst usually reserved for the irreverent jabbing of those in positions of corporate and political power in the borough, not even outgoing UNISON Branch Secretary John McLoughlin could leave the council without escaping the barbed attentions of *Corridors* – who was bemused to discover that someone so stridently adverse to monarchist comparisons (see page 2) could seemingly enjoy sitting on a throne so much.



John McLoughlin – Thrones fan?

Banned Bigg Time

Just what has ex-Mayor John Biggs been tweeting to offend Elon Musk, tech billionaire and Twitter's controversial new owner? In the last edition *Corridors* shone a light on some of John's arguably more tedious tweeting habits since he departed the mayoralty. But since then, his twitter account has been suspended with the former politician being told that his account broke twitter rules.

Bad Office Joke

Q. When is an office not an office?
A. When it's the UNISON 'office' at the New Town Hall.

Despite the oodles of unused space, rarely more than 35% desk occupancy and it supposedly being a purpose designed building, it seems that the former council leadership were super-keen to break the decades long tradition of providing the union with a small office to operate out of. In the lead up to the move the union was told it would only get four desks on an open bank. Concerns raised about staff privacy and GDPR fell on deaf ears. In response a senior HR manager suggested that perhaps 'alternative accommodations' away from the Town Hall could be explored (did they mean a shack on the border with Newham where no one could find us?)



The new Branch 'office'.

A bout of successful begging post-move resulted in at least some screening being erected. Regardless of the acres of unoccupied desks, a bizarre situation ensued when on some days two UNISON officers would have to perch on one desk at the same time with their laptops, huddled behind three manky screens left over from Mulberry Place (does that comply with the DSE regulations?) But it's amazing what a change in council leadership can bring. When Trade Unions recently met with new interim CEO Steve Halsey, the lack of a small office was raised. He was sympathetic, agreed it was a reasonable request and has now asked the Town Hall project group to look into it. Watch this space.

For the purposes of clarification, Ms Zaman was not an employee at Northamptonshire County Council when the section 114 notice was issued.

▷ Contact us and request a new joiners form

UNISON

Town Hall, 2nd floor, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

- Email **jacqueline.durand@towerhamlets.gov.uk** or **bernadette.hall@towerhamlets.gov.uk**
- Ring the Branch Office on **020 7364 6968** or one of these office mobile numbers: **07940 382 299** or **07943 996 646.**
- **Facebook:** Tower Hamlets Unison

TowerPower is published by Tower Hamlets UNISON, Town Hall, 2nd floor, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ
Design and layout by Andy Smith & Denise Bell (NUJ)– *info@smithplusbell.com* / Printed by Solopress Ltd.