



## LANCASHIRE UNISON CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

# JUDICIAL REVIEW DATE SET



**W**e have now received confirmation that the hearing of our Judicial Review (JR) will take place on 18 and 19 September 2006. We have taken this JR out against the Government's claims that the Rule of 85 breaches age discrimination legislation and undermines the legality of full protection. We will

keep members fully informed of key developments in future issues of Campaign News.

### Interim Protection Regulations for England and Wales

Following the Department for Communities and Local

Government (DCLG) consultation on their interim protection proposals, the DCLG has now formally laid the Parliamentary Regulations to introduce the new protection arrangements. The Regulations will mean that:

- The effective date of removal of the Rule of 85 for existing



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scheme members as of the 30 September will be the 1 April 2008. (The original proposal was to remove the Rule of 85 from the 1 October 2006)

- The protection for existing scheme members will be extended until 31 March 2016. (The original proposal was only until 31 March 2013). This extension will apply to existing members at 30 September who will be 60 and would otherwise have satisfied the Rule of 85 by 31 March 2016
- Existing scheme members at 30 Sept 2006 who will be 60 and would have satisfied the Rule of 85 between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2020, and who choose to retire before 65, will have their pension (that portion accruing after 31 March 2008)

reduced by an early retirement factor that is tapered.

A full copy of the Regulations can be downloaded from [www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com](http://www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com)

Please note that the costing of the extended protection, outlined in Annex B of this document, are subject to ongoing discussions in the context of the 'new look' scheme and represent the view of the Government Actuaries Department (GAD) and not that of the Trade Union Side.

UNISON's position is that, while the Regulations represent a marginal improvement, they fall well short of our objective of full protection for existing members and equal treatment with the rest of the public sector. We therefore will continue to negotiate hard for full protection.

Members will be balloted on the final proposals for both protection and the new look scheme at the end of the negotiations. If they are not acceptable, an industrial action ballot will follow.

## Negotiations with the Employers

The next meeting between the Trade Union Side and the LGA employers will take place on the 2 August. This will be followed by further meetings during August and September. We will be ramping up the campaign over the next few weeks to coincide with these meetings. When we are sat round the table with the employers they need to be under the pressure of a high profile campaign on both the issues of protection and the 'new look' scheme.

**Please circulate to non-members and encourage them to join.  
For an application form contact the Branch Office on  
01772 533072 or e-mail [unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk)**

