



## LANCASHIRE UNISON CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT OUR PENSIONS

# LGPS BALLOT TIMETABLE ANNOUNCED

**T**he LGPS consultation ballot timetable has now been confirmed.

**The ballot will open on the 2 July 2007 - when ballot papers will start to be sent to members' homes - and will close on the 23 July 2007.**

UNISON is recommending a YES vote in the ballot. Through a combination of hard negotiations and your tough campaigning we have secured real improvements

within the new LGPS. Given the pressure from Government and employers to cut benefits and increase costs at the start of the campaign, no one could have predicted such improvements at the start of this campaign over two years ago. Key ones are:

- Retention of a final salary pension – despite Government pressure for a 'career average' scheme and the closure of 75% of final salary schemes to new

members across the UK

- A better accrual rate of 1/60 , rather than 1/80 - meaning our pensions will build up faster
- Improved early retirement factors which cut the reduction to your pension if you choose to retire early



- Partners' pensions for all, backdated to April 1988 for unmarried partners
- Better death in service and death in retirement benefits
- No two-tier scheme - meaning all existing members can benefit from the improvements from 1 April 2008 – unlike elsewhere in the public sector
- An average employee contribution rate of 6.3%, rather than the 7% the Government and employers wanted - and lower than both the NHS and Civil Service schemes

In addition we have also campaigned for and won a statutory consultation on extending full protection under the Rule of 85 in England and Wales to 2020.

## Getting the Vote Out

We need to ensure as many members as possible vote in the LGPS ballot. Stewards have a key role to play in ensuring members vote in the ballot. So please speak to as many people as possible about UNISON's success in the LGPS campaign.

If any UNISON member has not received their LGPS ballot paper by 10 July, they should call UNISON Direct on 0845 355 0845 with their membership number.

## Recruit and Build the Union

The LGPS campaign is living proof that strength really does come in numbers. Without the power of over one million members behind us, our negotiators would not have been able to secure improvements to the new LGPS.

- Let's use the success of our campaign to demonstrate the power of our union
- Let's use the campaign around the ballot as an opportunity to sign up non – members
- Let's tell them just what being a member of UNISON means – bargaining strength and support when they need it

**Alongside talking to non - members one-to-one, direct them to the UNISON website for more detailed information on: [www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk)**

We have many tough battles ahead. Our campaign for a better pay deal has started, the Local Government Bill promises more privatisation, our fight for equal pay continues. The more members we have, the stronger we will be.



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