



**Rob Turner**

**Local Government SGE Election**

**Membership No: 445567**

Dear Colleagues

**Nomination Local Government Service Group Executive 2026 Eastern General Seat**

After the election of Andrea Egan as our new General Secretary now is the time to bring Change for Local Government Service Group members!

I am writing to ask you to consider voting for me to be re-elected to UNISON's Local Government Service Group Executive 2026 in the Eastern General Seat.

I would also ask you to consider nominating Stacey Wilson-Davies for the Eastern Female seat.

By the time you read this letter, the voting period will have already opened. If Unison hold an email address for you, you will have received an email to take part in the voting procedure. If you have not, please contact the Branch to find out how you can vote.

### **About me**

I have been a member of Unison or its predecessor union the National Union of Public Employers (NUPE) since 1985. Indeed, I became a NUPE Steward that same year and led my NHS department out on strike on 5 separate occasions. I was from a very early age, committed to getting the best for union members.

I have been the Branch Secretary of Cambridgeshire County Branch since 2012. I have considerable experience of representing members and involvement in campaigns and industrial action. From my early experiences in NUPE and, seeing what results a strong union can bring its members, to recently taking members to the cusp of strike action on 2 occasions. Which realised a better pay rise than their NJC colleagues on both occasions.

### **WE NEED CHANGE TO WIN**

I am proud to have fully supported Andrea Egan, our new General Secretary, and the Organising manifesto that she stood on. No longer will we put the interests of the Labour Party first; it is UNISON members that must be our focus. It is vital that we have a Local Government Service Group Executive that supports our General Secretary. We need a union

where branches and activists get the organising support and resources they need, and we deliver real wins for members.

The low turnout in both pay and election ballots show a major disconnect between the union and the members. There is no more of an example than that of our schools' members. With the introduction of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body, school staff will soon get their own say on setting their terms and conditions. This is a cause that I am fully committed to, supporting activists from our County to take part in.

### **PAY, JOBS, AND CUTS**

But it's not just School staff who deserve better outcomes. Local Government workers have lost up over 25% pay in real terms since 2010 and nearly 1 million jobs have gone, leaving those behind with more work and greater stress. We now face further threats to the funding of our schools and the wider public sector. A pay offer of 3.3% is not enough.

We also face a growing number of Reform UK led Councils that threaten our pensions, our services, including the NHS, our jobs and our equality policies. I know that some of our members might have voted Reform, and I urge you to think again, look at their policies. Reform are not the friends of the working person.

### **POWER**

As the biggest service group in our union, our members need to feel empowered to stand up to the drastic cuts. Members need to see other trade unions as comrades not competitors and need to feel part of a collective voice. Doing more of the same will simply lead to the same results.

### **EQUALITY**

Racism, anti-disablism, sexism, LGBT+ attacks, backed up with bullying and harassment, are all too commonplace for our members in local government. Too often Black, migrant and disabled workers are scapegoated. There must be a bigger voice for Equality in UNISON. Branches should be encouraged to join community campaigns, like those organised by Stand up to Racism, supporting asylum seekers and opposing racism and bigotry. It is obvious failing politicians are seeking to divert attention by ramping up racist and anti-trans rhetoric.

If I am re-elected, I will continue to fight for your best interests through the Committee.

Yours in solidarity

**Rob Turner**

Unison Cambridgeshire

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