

# Suffolk Division

## Pensions newsletter



***Trade union coalition grows against pensions attacks***

# Lobby of Parliament gives government last chance

***Further strike action planned if talks fail***

**Talks between the government and trade unions about proposed changes to public sector pensions have continued over the summer.**

However, the government has offered very little in these talks and is not conceding any ground on its proposal to make public sector workers pay more and work longer for a smaller pension on retirement.

Talks have now reached such a critical stage that more unions are preparing to ballot for strike action unless the government changes course.

This follows the successful strike by the NUT, ATL, UCU and PCS on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The latest union to declare a ballot is our sister union the NASUWT and we expect UNISON to do likewise.

### **Government figures revealed**

During the summer the government produced some figures on how they would introduce a tiered increase in teacher pension contributions. They make stark reading, for example:

- A teacher on the Upper Pay Spine will be expected to contribute 9.4% of their salary towards a pension
- Part-time workers will be expected to pay the a pension contribution based on a full-time salary

### **Unions organising together**

The NUT is working with other unions to challenge the government's economic policy, which is forecast to see a 10% drop in family living standards.

- The TUC is organising a demonstration at the Tory party conference on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> (see flyer)
- All teacher unions are calling a lobby of Parliament (see next column)
- Further joint strike action is planned for November

**This campaign is crucial, please make sure you keep up to date with what is happening.**

**YOUR PENSION IS AFFORDABLE -  
SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND IT.**

*"We are now planning for industrial action for when these talks break down... you'll see strikes throughout all of the public sector, it will include strikes in our schools, our civil service, our fire brigade, our local government service, our health service."*

*Dave Prentis (General Secretary Unison)*

### **Teacher unions united in campaign**

- Seven teacher unions are working together to build what it is hoped will be a mass lobby of Parliament
- The lobby takes place on Wednesday October 26th
- Every school in the country is being asked to send delegates
- Every school is being asked to collect signatures for a petition to be presented to MPs
- Where it is not possible to attend the lobby, plans will be made for local lobbies of MPs
- The lobby is the government's last chance to avoid more strike action

## What you can do

- ⑦ **Make sure there is a joint union meeting in your school**
- ⑦ **Make sure everyone signs the petition**
- ⑦ **Choose delegates to attend the lobby of Parliament**
- ⑦ **Send someone from your school to the next local NUT meeting**

**Follow the NUT on Twitter @NUTonline**



### **NUT pension loss calculator**

[www.teachers.org.uk/pensions](http://www.teachers.org.uk/pensions)

Thousands of members have been shocked at how much they will lose