



# **Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2012-2013**

## **Introduction**

Just over a year ago in a noisy room in Halifax YMCA, we held the first meeting to establish if there was interest in re-forming Calderdale Trades Council. We believe we can be quite proud of what we have achieved in the year since. We have re-established the Trades Council with representatives and regular attendees from eight different unions; we have made contact with local campaigning groups and, with our new banner, we have represented Calderdale unions on a number of demonstrations and national events. We think we have made a solid start at raising the profile of trade unionism in the area, and look forward to building on this next year.

## **Meetings**

Early in the year we moved our meetings to Halifax Town Hall, and we have met six times over the year, as we agreed in our constitution. We have had speakers and discussions on; Cuts to the Fire Service, Education in Calderdale, the Bedroom Tax Campaign, the 'My Theatre Matters!' campaign and The People's Assembly.

## Affiliations and support

We are registered with the TUC as a Trades Council and attended the Yorkshire Regional AGM in March last year. In accordance with our constitution we have been active in supporting local and national campaigns. We have affiliated to Cuba Solidarity and made donations to Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and the local Bedroom Tax Campaign group. One of our delegates attended the national launch conference of the People's Assembly. We are in regular contact with a number of other local campaign groups including, Calderdale People's Assembly and Calderdale Save Our Services.

## Campaigning

We have had a presence on a number of demonstrations over the year, starting with the regional Defend the NHS demonstration in York in March, which was, sadly, not supported by many unions. We attended the Leeds May Day March, which, although not huge, attracted much positive support from shoppers and passers-by. In September, we took a large contingent of people to Manchester to demonstrate at the Conservative Party Conference.

In June, Calderdale was selected as one of the stopping points for the TUC's Austerity Uncovered Bus Tour. Finding venues to park the bus at the weekend at short notice, was quite a challenge, and Chris Beastall at Yorkshire and the Humber TUC worked hard to make it happen. Despite the wet weather we leafleted in the Piece Hall and Halifax Town Centre and then went up to Todmorden to meet with local activists and get stories about how austerity is affecting people in our area. The bus was well supported by the regional unions and local activists.

As a result of discussions and resolutions passed at our meetings, we have put pressure on local housing associations with regard to

their policy on evicting people who get into rent arrears due to the bedroom tax. We have also supported the construction unions in their joint campaign against blacklisting and have asked Calderdale Council to commit to refusing to contract with construction companies which have used blacklists.

## Looking Ahead

We are already making plans for activities next year including a high profile joint meeting with Hebden Bridge Trades Club to commemorate 30 years since the Miners' Strike.

We will continue to support local campaigns, particularly against cuts to jobs and services, and offer our support to local trades unions in struggle.

We have a good core of people who regularly attend meetings, but it would obviously be great to have more. We still do not have contact with the PCS in Calderdale, and there is scope for many more union branches to affiliate. While the officers work on this, our meetings will continue to be open to any interested trades union members.

*Tracey Howton, Secretary*

## Officers and Committee 2012-2013

**Chair:** David Draycott, Leeds Council Unite

**Vice Chair:** David Wright, Bradford Council Unison

**Secretary:** Tracey Howton, Bradford College UCU

**Treasurer:** Pete Keal, Equity Yorkshire Ridings General

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Phone: 01422 647170 (Tracey)

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Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for Year ended 31 October 2013

	£
RECEIPTS	
Affiliation fees	70.00
Donations	86.98
TUC Grant	105.25
Balance from previous Trades Council	6,790.88
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	£7,053.11
PAYMENTS	
Campaign Support	303.25
Trades Council Banner	139.99
Affiliation Fees	40.00
Room hire	102.00
Postage, Print and Stationery	3.65
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TOTAL PAYMENTS	£588.89
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EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	£6,464.22
	=====

## Statement of Balances at 31 October 2013

	£
Brought forward 01.11.12	0.00
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	6,464.22
	=====
Net Branch funds 31.10.13	<b>£6,464.22</b>
	=====
Bank and cash balances 31.10.13	
Current account	6,448.86
Petty cash	15.36
	=====
Bank and cash	<b>£6,464.22</b>
	=====

*Tracey Howton, Secretary*

*Pete Keal, Treasurer*

## Auditor's Report

I have examined the Accounts, Cashbooks, Cheque and Paying in books, Bank Statements, Invoices, Receipts and other financial documents of Calderdale Trades Council. In my opinion the Accounts and Statement of Balances give a true and fair view of Calderdale Trades Council's finances as at 31 October 2013 and of the excess of Receipts over Payments for the year then ended.

*Deb Collett, Auditor*

# Treasurer's Report

Calderdale Trades Council is currently in a healthy financial position. This is largely because we have inherited over £6,790 that belonged to the previous Trades Council which had become inactive and was dissolved. However, this year's accounts are deceptive: if these inherited funds together with a one-off donation of £71.98 are omitted, the Trades Council's regular income totalled £190.25, compared with outgoings of £588.89. Therefore, if the Trades Council maintains a similar level of activities, next year's accounts will show a deficit in the order of £400.

We are fortunate that the Trades Council has assets that it can use to support the campaigns and struggles that our workplaces and communities face in these times of Austerity and Government cutbacks. At some stage in the future however, we will need to consider how we can raise additional finance so that we can continue to fund the policies and actions that we wish to pursue. It would be prudent to consider this earlier rather than later. A small step that we can take right away is to redouble our efforts to increase the number of Union Branches affiliated to Calderdale Trades Council.

*Pete Keal, Treasurer*

## Affiliated Union Branches 2013

Bradford College UCU  
Calderdale NUJ  
Calderdale NUT  
Calderdale Council GMB  
Calderdale Council UNISON  
CWU West Yorkshire  
Equity Yorkshire Ridings General  
FBU Region 4  
Leeds Council UNITE