



Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2014-2015

Introduction

The Trades Council has had a difficult year due in part to a vacant officer post and a number of officers not being well enough for large parts of the year to carry out their duties. Nevertheless, we have continued to organise events in our own right and contribute to local campaigning. We have also made further progress in encouraging unions to affiliate and have supported a number of local groups, events and fellow trades unionists involved in industrial action.

The result of the General Election poses serious problems to the Trades Union movement faced as we are with continuing Austerity, Privatisation of our NHS and attacks on employment and Trades Union rights. The years ahead are going to be important for all trade unionists in our fight to defend rights at work and essential services for our members, and we look forward to playing our part.

Meetings

We have had 4 ordinary meetings over the year with generally a disappointing attendance; one meeting was inquorate. Winter weather disrupted arrangements for meetings in early 2015 and the July meeting was rearranged due to holiday clashes.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to arrange speakers for Trades Council meetings due to lack of time on the part of our depleted officer group.

In October 2015, we organised a successful Protect the Right to Strike public meeting attended by approximately 50 people.

Affiliations and Solidarity

We are registered with the TUC as a Trades Council and have supported various local and national campaigns. We renewed our affiliations to Cuba Solidarity Campaign and to Yorkshire and the Humber Pensioners' Convention. During the year, we also affiliated to Defend Council Housing, The Campaign for Trade Union Freedom, The People's Assembly and Youth Fight for Jobs.

We have made donations to striking workers to West Yorkshire Fire Brigades Union, GMB Green Co Strike Fund in Sheffield and the UNISON dispute with Barnet Council. We also made a donation to Pontefract New College Feminism towards the cost of transporting young people to the Pride demonstration in London.

In March 2015, we helped to promote Calderdale NUT's Education Question Time. We joined with Calderdale UNISON to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day in April and we have suggested jointly organising the 2016 commemoration. In addition, we would like to preserve the plaque to a past Halifax Trades Council activist that is on the bench outside Northgate House as well as establish a permanent Workers' Memorial Day monument in the future.

We have maintained contact with local campaign groups including Calderdale Peoples' Assembly, Calderdale 38 Degrees NHS Group and Save Calderdale Royal Hospital.

Campaigning

In addition to the Protect the Right to Strike public meeting, we have been involved in a number of other campaigns. We were represented at the People's Assembly demonstration in London in

June and at the TUC demonstration in Manchester in October to coincide with the Tory Party conference. We worked with Calderdale People's Assembly to help publicise and fund transport to both demonstrations in order to maximise attendance from our area.

We remain concerned about continued austerity and proposed changes to NHS services including plans to shut down the Accident and Emergency Service at Calderdale Royal Hospital. We provided funding towards NHS campaign publicity during the year.

We maintained our website - www.calderdaletuc.org.uk, our Twitter account and our Facebook page which we use to promote our own and other events.

Looking ahead

We hope that the 2015 Annual General Meeting will elect a strong team of officers to take the Trades Council forward in the struggles ahead. We need every trade union branch with members living or working in Calderdale to affiliate to Calderdale Trades Council. We also need to find more effective ways of relating to local union branches and developing joint work with them to strengthen our movement and our campaigning.

We will continue to support local campaigns against austerity, cuts to jobs and services and to keep our NHS public.

Officers and Committee 2014-2015

Chair: Mark O'Neill, Calderdale Unison
Vice Chair: Phil Downsborough, BFAWU Suma (from Sept '15)
Secretary: Tracey Howton, Usdaw Leeds Private Trade
Treasurer: Pete Keal, Equity Yorkshire Ridings General

E-mail: info@calderdaletuc.org.uk

Web: <http://calderdaletuc.org.uk> Twitter: @calderdaletuc

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Calderdale-Trades-Council/522192154475876>

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for Period 1 November 2014 to 30 September 2015

	£	
RECEIPTS		
TUC Grants	514.00	
Affiliation fees	140.00	
Donations	150.00	
Bank Interest	9.12	

TOTAL RECEIPTS		£813.12
PAYMENTS		
Campaign Support	526.30	
Affiliation Fees etc.	240.00	
Room hire	37.50	
Postage, Print and Stationery	12.30	
Travel	4.35	

TOTAL PAYMENTS		£820.45

EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS		(£7.33)
		=====

Statement of Balances at 30 September 2015

	£
Brought forward 01.11.14	6,056.97
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	(7.33)
	=====
Net Funds 30.9.15	
	£6,049.64
	=====
Bank and cash balances 30.9.15	
Current account	6,041.38
Petty cash	
	8.26
	=====
Bank and cash	£6,049.64
	=====

Tracey Howton, Secretary

Pete Keal, Treasurer

Auditor's Report

We have examined the Accounts, Cashbooks, Cheque and Paying in books, Bank Statements, Invoices, Receipts and other financial documents of Calderdale Trades Council. In our opinion the Accounts and Statement of Balances give a true and fair view of Calderdale Trades Council's finances as at 30 September 2015 and of the excess of Payments over Receipts for the year then ended.

Russell Dawson and Jane Rendle
Auditors

Treasurer's Report

Calderdale Trades Council Accounts to 30 September 2015 show that we spent £7.33 more than we received in income. The accounts reflect a reduced level of activity during the year - in 2013-14, the Trades Council spent over £2,980 compared with the £820.45 spent up to the end of September 2015.

We are fortunate that currently 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, Government cutbacks and attacks on workers' rights. However, this financial situation will not last for ever. We will need to consider how we can raise additional funds so that we can continue to support the policies and actions that we wish to pursue. Part of such a strategy will be to continue to maximise the TUC grants we are entitled to as well as to redouble our efforts to increase the number of Union Branches affiliated to Calderdale Trades Council along with seeking donations from larger branches over and above the basic level of Trades Council affiliation fees.

Pete Keal, Treasurer

Affiliated Union Branches 2014-15

BFAWU Suma
Bradford Halifax and
Huddersfield Unite Community
Calderdale NUJ
Calderdale NUT
Calderdale Council GMB
Calderdale Council UNISON
CWU West Yorkshire

Equity Yorkshire Ridings General
FBU Calderdale Division
Leeds Council Unite
PCS MoJ Greater Manchester
UCU University of Huddersfield
Unite Nestlé
USDWV Leeds Private Trade