UNISON
North Yorkshire Local Government

In UNISON
March 2026

AGM’s - a thank you

Our Annual General Meetings (AGM’s) for 2026 are now complete

The AGM’s are an important opportunity for you to engage with the branch and influence decisions that guide the Branch’s work. Members who attended were able to review the annual reports and accounts, elect branch officers and ask any questions about these topics.

Our virtual AGM continues to offer members an accessible way to attend if you can’t make it to a face to face meeting.

We are already planning our AGM’s for 2027 and we’d like to see even more members take part. As a reminder, the AGM’s are your opportunity to:

- Have your say and hear about our work
- Elect your representatives and branch officers.
- Get involved in shaping the branch priorities.
- Meet other members from across North Yorkshire.
- Enjoy a free buffet.
- Take part in our free raffle - top prize of £150 voucher at each meeting.

Whether you’ve attended before, or have thought about joining us for the first time, we would love to see you at our 2027 AGM’s. More details will be shared later in the year.

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International Women's Day

The 8th of March marks international Women's day and we wanted to celebrate some of the incredible women who make our branch strong and effective every single day. Many of our Branch positions are proudly held by Women and we thought you might like to hear from some of them.

After joining the branch admin team in 2023, Vicky B started to help support the branch with recruitment events and really enjoyed meeting members within their work places. in 2025 Vicky became accredited and was successful in becoming a caseworker, employed by the branch. Vicky still loves going out to recruitment events to meet members old and new across all the work places we cover! When not at work Vicky spends time with her family and loves exploring new places!

Rachel is our Assistant Branch Chair, Branch Communications Officer, and Service Conditions Officer. She plays an active role within the union, not only within the branch but within our region and nationally. Rachel sits on Regional Council, Regional Committee, and Regional Local Government Service Group. She is also one of two regional representatives for the Yorkshire and Humberside region on the NJC Committee. When Rachel isn't travelling across the County supporting members, carrying out health and safety inspections in her role as H&S rep, or representing members views on pay, you can find her walking the dog, drinking a cup of tea, or spending time with her family.

Vicky D is one of our Service Conditions Officers and our LGBT+ Officer. Before joining the Branch, Vicky worked for NYC gaining valuable hand on experience that she uses when advocating for members facing challenge in their workplace. Vicky is a delegate of the Regional Council and Committee and also attends the LGBT+ Self Organised Group (SOG). When not at work, Vicky is usually found in a record shop, or playing at a Northern Soul gig

Event in Scarborough

Have your read the book 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists' by Robert Tressell? It's about the struggles of ordinary working people in the early 19th century and how they could overcome some of their problems by forming a Trade Union. Much of the story still resonates in todays world and it's inspirational in promoting socialism.

A play of The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists that will take place on Thursday 16 April starting at 7.45pm in the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough.

Tickets are available at a reduced rate for members and friends, at a cost of £10 per head.

If you would like a ticket please contact our Retired Members Secretary, Annie Thompson (mrs.anniethompson5@gmail.com, 07716 847767) to say how many tickets you would like. Payment of £10 per ticket to be paid into the Unity Bank account no 20472524 sort code 60-83-01.

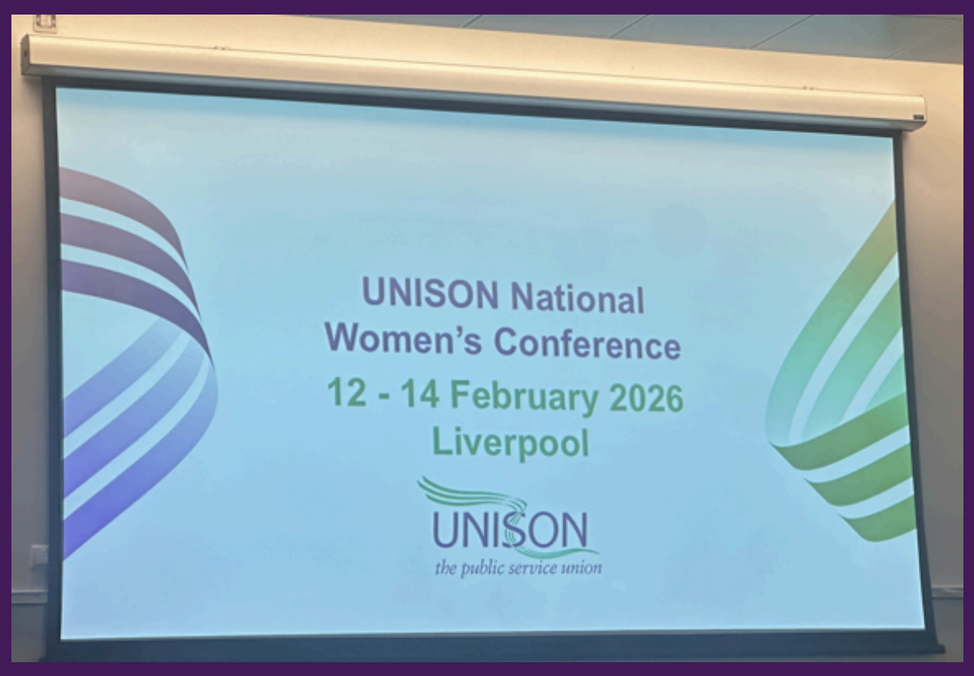
Opinion: By UNISON head of pensions Glyn Jenkins

Heard about the fresh attack on local government pensions? Below is a snippet from the full article, available here.

"Reform UK's announcement this week that, if elected, it would end defined benefit pension schemes for new local government staff would be a disaster. For council workers, the local government sector and communities in general.
The party's leadership doesn't want any new starters admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). But that ignores the fact the scheme provides decent and not excessive benefits for those working in councils and schools."

Women’s Conference 2026

UNISON’s National Women’s Conference took place from 12–14 February 2026 at ACC Liverpool, bringing together women from every region, service group and sector of the union. Branch Officers, Michele Jones and Rachel Horsman, attended on behalf of the Branch.



The conference exists to set UNISON’s priorities on women’s rights and workplace equality, with a programme of workshops, fringe meetings and formal debates on pay, health and safety, reproductive rights, dignity at work and equality. Voting is by delegates, with all women members able to participate in the wider programme.

In addition to the motions debated, Conference heard from a number of speakers including UNISON’s General Secretary, Andrea Egan, UNISON president, Catherine McKenna, and Deputy Labour leader, Lucy Powell.

If you would like a full copy of the conference report, please contact Rachel Horsman, who would be happy to share a copy with you (rachel.horsman@northyorks.gov.uk).

Violence at Work

Violence at work involves any incident in which an employee is abused, threatened or assaulted (either physically or verbally) in circumstances relating to their work.

Verbal abuse, by phone call, face to face, or over email is not acceptable and this should be reported on your employers incident reporting system.

For employees of North Yorkshire Council, you should report this matter to your line manager, and on the Besafe system, as soon as possible.

NJC Pay Award 26/27

Our claim was submitted on Monday 1 December 2025 and includes:

(based on a one-year settlement):

- An increase of at least £3,000 or 10% (whichever is greater) on every pay point
- A minimum pay rate of £15 an hour for all staff
- A two-hour reduction in the working week
- An increase of one day annual leave
- The ability of all school support staff to take a day of paid leave during term time

The employers side met on the 24th of February and is due to meet again on the 24th of March. We hope that an offer is shared following this meeting.

We will contact members when further updates are available.

Debt Awareness week

This week is debt awareness week. As a UNISON member, if you're worried or struggling with debt, you can access free support and advice through UNISON Debtline. Click here for more information on their services.

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