

UNITE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

GREEN BOOK STRIKE FAQs

VOTE YES FOR STRIKE ACTION

How do I vote?

This is a postal ballot. Ballot papers will be posted to your home address. Please make sure to put an X in the YES box and return your ballot paper in the enclosed self-addressed envelope before the ballot closes.

What happens if I vote YES for strike action?

Strike action is a complete withdrawal of labour, though your local branch may also want to utilise action short of a strike. First, a majority of UNITE members in your workplace must vote in favour of strike action and 50% of those eligible to vote must have returned their ballot.

Next, your NISC – the Local Authority NISC, will meet to decide the dates of any action, the form of the action, duration and pattern. Your employer will be informed. This is a legal requirement. You will then be advised of your role in supporting the strike. Strike action will be coordinated with sister unions where possible.

However, this is entirely dependent on achieving the balloting thresholds.

What are ballot thresholds?

Under the law, all industrial action ballots must reach a 50% turn out with a majority voting in favour of strike action.

I don't think I can afford to strike for better pay & conditions?

Can you afford not to? We understand the financial pressures you face. Strike action is a last resort. UNITE always tries to negotiate and bargain for our members before moving to industrial action. But in this case, the national employers have refused to negotiate with NJC trade unions and made a full and final offer without any meaningful talks. Strike action will help bring them to the negotiating table.

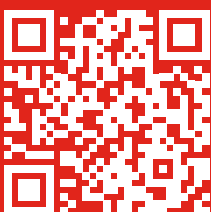
What is the strike fund?

UNITE is on your side – We will not let our members be starved back to work. We have a healthy strike fund and a pro rata strike payment of £70 a day to help you during the strike. Some conditions apply, more details will be provided closer to the time and members should contact your rep or officer if you have special additional needs.

How long will the ballot run for?

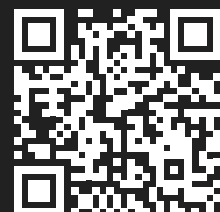
UNITE is running targeted, disaggregated ballots in England and Wales. Northern Ireland will have their own balloting periods. But any action will be coordinated. **The balloting period will run from 16 July- 17 August 2026.**

A ballot paper will be posted to your home address. Check your post. Vote and post back your ballot paper straight away.



SCAN TO JOIN UNITE TODAY

**SCAN TO CHECK YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS**



Who is being balloted?

Members working for targeted local authorities in England and Wales will be balloted. This will be followed by UNITE members in Northern Ireland.

We are not balloting all local government members in England and Wales; your regional officer will advise if your workplace is not being balloted at this stage.

Please make sure your UNITE membership details are up-to-date: go to myunitetheunion.org to receive regular updates from us via email and text.

Why aren't all local government and school members in England and Wales being balloted?

Unite is balloting strategically to win. We want to make sure we get as many of our members over the strict balloting thresholds, so that we maximise our impact and win. Our balloting plan was developed and endorsed by the Local Authorities NISC, made up of members working in local government like you, to ensure we achieve that. We have selected councils where members have most strongly engaged with Unite's consultation, but there may be scope to extend the campaign to other workplaces, if strike mandates are achieved. We believe that by targeting our resources in workplaces with strong membership density and in areas where we will have impact, we can deliver. But even if your workplace isn't being balloted now, we're in this together. Working for the same goal - to win the inflation busting pay rise that you deserve. Talk to your UNITE rep about how you can get involved.

Can new joiners vote?

Yes, your colleagues can join at any time up to and including the day or (days) of action and lawfully take part in the industrial action. This is a good time to encourage your workmates to join Unite.

Get them to join online at join.unitetheunion.org or ask your rep for a supply of membership forms.

Are new joiners entitled to strike pay?

This is a regional decision so please speak to your UNITE rep and regional officer first for confirmation.

Why is it important that I vote?

Every vote matters. Your vote is your voice. This is our chance to stand together and show that you are united against low pay in our public services.

Does it really matter if I don't vote?

YES! Because of the 50% turnout rule, if you don't vote it makes it much harder for UNITE to achieve a mandate. Please use your vote and encourage your colleagues to vote too.

Is my vote anonymous?

Yes. No-one knows how you voted but you. The ballot is run for UNITE by an independent body called Civica Election Services (CES), formerly the Electoral Reform Society.

Postal ballot not arrived?

If you have not received a ballot paper five days after the ballot has opened please contact your regional office right away to request a replacement.

Are your Unite membership details up-to-date?

Go to myunitetheunion.org to double check and contact your regional office if they need updating.

How can I find out more?

Talk to your UNITE rep, and ask them whether there's a WhatsApp's group you can join. Check your email, post and phone for messages from us about the ballot.