

The ending of cheques



NEWSLETTER • January 2011

Unite Update

Plans to scrap the use of cheques

Cheques may soon be a thing of the past! In December 2009 the Payments Council decided to set a date to wipe cheques out as a method of payment.

If proposals are agreed the last cheque will be cashed in the UK by 2018.

Unite launches its campaign

This has raised great concern to thousands of the most vulnerable people in the country who rely on cheques for payment.

But scrapping cheques will also put thousands of workers' jobs in jeopardy including our members employed in cheque handlings, logistics and printing industries. It will also affect our branches and members who use cheques.

That's why Unite has set up a campaign against the decision to phase out the use of cheques.

Campaign update

In this update we want to let you know what we've done so far and highlight the next steps.

Working with members – Unite is working closely with Regional Officers and your local shop stewards to build and extend our campaign on behalf of our members. A number of meetings have already taken place in workplaces with reps/members whose jobs could be affected by the ending of cheques including Communisis in Crewe.

Working with other Unite organisations – Elderly people still depend on cheques including Unite retired members. Plans are in place for a presentation to be made to Unite's Retired Members Association National Committee seeking their support and help with the campaign.

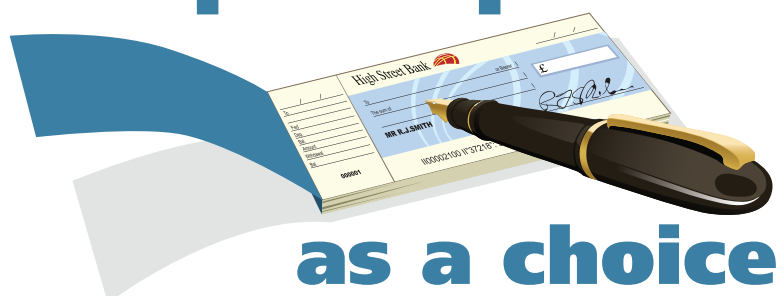
Working with other organisations – Our campaign is also being supported by other organisations including National Pensioners Convention and the Institute of Fundraising. We want to work with these organisation and others involved to link into a national campaign. Further contact is to be made with Age UK, Citizens Advice, Consumer Focus, Federation of Small Business and Forum of Private Business.

Working with the Payments Council – As we go to print final details are being confirmed to meet the Payments Council. Unite wants to ensure that the interests of its members in terms of their jobs and future employment can be included in the Payments Council's cost/benefit analysis with regard to the proposal for ending the use of cheques in 2018, following the enquiry by the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee.

Working with Parliament – Unite is working closely with its Political Team who are in the process of organising a parliamentary event with MPs and other organisations in the House of Commons – date to be confirmed shortly.

As well as engaging other members of Unite Parliamentary Group we will also be encouraging Unite members in affected companies to contact their MPs in early 2011. Look out for more details in the next newsletter.

Keep cheques



as a choice

Join Unite the Union online at
www.unitetheunion.org

The time to save them is NOW

We've still got quite a few years to change these proposals. The final decision will not be made until 2016. Your support for this campaign will be crucial in making a difference. We want to work with our members and other organisation to drive this campaign forward and to make sure viable alternatives are in place before it's too late.

Get involved

Ask your local reps how you can do your bit to help with the campaign. Spread the message – let us know if you need any posters or stickers or assistance in organising leafleting. More information coming soon but if you're willing to help or have any ideas contact the campaign coordinator, Peter Skyte by email at Peter.Skyte@Unitetheunion.org.

We are also looking at carrying out a membership survey via email. It will only take a couple of minutes of your time so please respond if this comes your way to support our campaign.

Now available on Unite website

Newsletter and more information on the campaign "The Ending of Cheques" are available on the Unite website at www.unitetheunion.org.

Don't wait until it too late – get involved **NOW!**

Keep cheques



as a choice



www.unitetheunion.org