



Minutes of the East Midlands GPM Regional Sector Committee held on Friday 15th January 2010 12.00pm at the Unite Office - Leicester

Attendees: R Batchelor, A Dent, M French, J Leivers, R Moosa (Chair), A Pilkington, T Porter, R Swain. R Mooney (Regional Officer)

Apologies: P Curtis, M Flavin, M Keep, D Panter, B Woodcock.

Minutes of the last meetings: - Agreed

Matters Arising: It was agreed that members would be notified of the 2010 meeting dates well in advance, and where requested letters would be sent to employers.

Regional Industrial Reports: Regional Officers' reports were circulated. Delegates reported on their workplaces. All commented on how busy they were and, believed that the worse of the recession had passed. A discussion took place on members' expectations for 2010 as a number of chapels had accepted pay freezes during 2009, in addition to short time working and redundancies; it was felt that members would be looking for a substantial increase over the next 12 months.

Delegates Reports:

Regional Committee Report – R Moosa gave a verbal report on the inaugural meeting of the Regional Committee. The financial position of GPM Branches had been raised with the Regional Secretary who would be looking into why they did not receive the branch allowances in line with the Rule Book. It was reported that former TGWU Branch Officers and Reps were currently up for re- election.

National Sector Committee Report - R Moosa reported on job losses within the Sector and how this had impacted on membership figures, which were now below 60,000. A discussion took place on the forthcoming BPIF National Pay negotiations, it was proposed that future increases should be expressed as a percentage rather than the monetary increases based on BPIF/UNITE minimum class rates. R Moosa/M Flavin to raise this at the next meeting.

National Sector Conference Report – A Porter gave a report on the NIS Conference held in November 2009, it was noted that very few Regions had submitted motions to the conference. Following a discussion it was agreed to invite a speaker to the next meeting on formulating motions and conference procedures in preparation for the Policy conference in May 2010.

It was agreed that for future meetings written reports would be submitted by delegates. R Moosa volunteered to circulate minutes he receives from the meetings he attends.

GPM Sector Regional Industrial Strategy

General Election Preparation – It was agreed to circulate a contact list of Key Seats in the Region for members to help with the General Election. The need for a Labour Party recruitment campaign, especially amongst workplace Reps, was discussed.

Organising & Recruitment within the GPM Sector - A discussion took place on the level of membership within the Sector and organisation. There are a number of workplaces where we have a considerable number of unorganised members and in most cases did not have a Workplace Rep. It was agreed that a list of all recognised GPM Sector workplaces in the East Midlands would be provided at the next meeting to identify organising/recruitment targets.

Collective Bargaining It was agreed to create a Regional database of 2010 pay awards in the Sector.

GPM National Sector Industrial Strategy: A copy of the plan was circulated and a discussion took place on how some of the proposals could be incorporated into the Region's strategy for 2010. It was agreed that the RIS Committee create a similar plan that would form a part of the meeting agenda. R Moosa spoke on the strategy and encouraged members to attend the proposed sub sector conferences and to report back into the Regional Sector Committee. A discussion took place on the involvement of Reps in wider union activities, especially International Solidarity and Workers Uniting. It was agreed that the Chair would explain the Unite structures and the role of the different committees within the union at the next meeting. Details of the May Day Study Tour to Cuba (21 April – 3 May 2010) were circulated and if anyone was interested to contact R Mooney. This information would also be circulated to members unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting Dates for 2010 – It was agreed to survey delegates on preferred days and location for future meetings.