Why should I join the Labour Party as a full member?
Because you can play a full part in all activities. You can vote at meetings on policy issues and in officer elections and you can stand for election to officer positions. You can take part in selections of local candidates for the council, as well as representatives to the Scottish Parliament and Westminster. You can also stand as a candidate yourself. Through Unite’s structures, you can become a delegate from your Unite branch to your local Labour Party.

How do I get full membership?
To join for just £15 for the first year, download a form from the Unite web site at www.unitetheunion.org/joinlabour. Alternatively, join via the Labour Party at https://join.labour.org.uk. Select the option for Trade Union to join at a reduced rate, currently £1.96 a month. Call 0191 246 5004 to join by phone.

Why get involved?
Because you can make a difference! Unite’s political strategy is about:

- **Winning working people for Labour** – encouraging Unite members to get involved in the Labour Party so that it is truly representative of society.
- **Winning Labour for working people** – making our voice heard on policy issues that matter to ordinary people, their families and communities.
- **Building a broad alliance to beat the Tories** – working with others who support our values to fight back against cuts and austerity.
- **Most importantly** – **winning a Labour Government** that governs in the interests of working people.

The more union members get involved, the more we can achieve by winning support from other Labour Party members, councillors and Parliamentary representatives for issues that are important to our members, including industrial disputes. **It’s your Party, your voice!**
**What is an Affiliated Supporter of the Labour Party?**

In September 2013, Ed Miliband announced that he wanted to change the way that trade union members get involved in the Labour Party. The subsequent rule change means that union members now actively choose to be part of their union’s collective affiliation, but can also become individual Affiliated Supporters - a new category of Labour Party member.

Unite now has over 100,000 Affiliated Supporters who signed up to take part in the UK and Scottish Labour Party leadership elections in August and September 2015. We want our Affiliated Supporters to do more than cast votes, we want you to take the opportunity to get involved in your local Labour Party.

**What rights do I have as an Affiliated Supporter?**

As an Affiliated Supporter, you are entitled to attend local Labour Party meetings. You can speak and contribute but you need to be a full member of the Labour Party to participate in votes either on motions or in elections for local officers.

As an affiliated member you can vote in any future leadership or deputy leadership election. You can also attend conferences, such as the UK Labour Party conference or Scottish Labour Party conference but as a visitor not as a delegate.

**How do Scottish Labour Party structures work?**

The Scottish Labour Party organisation is based on Scottish Parliamentary constituencies.

In some areas, the structure is founded on branch meetings, which discuss local, national and even international issues; plan local campaigning activities; select local council candidates; and can send delegates and motions to Constituency Labour Party meetings. Where there are area branches, all Labour Party members and Affiliated Supporters in that area can attend the meeting. If your council area has Labour councillors, they will normally attend as well. Most branch meetings meet monthly, although there can be local variations.

Constituency Labour Party (CLP) meetings vary in the way they operate but most meet on a monthly basis. Some are open to all members (All Member Meetings – AMMs), others (General Committees – GCs) allow all members to attend but only elected delegates can vote, whilst some GCs are restricted to delegates only, with delegates elected from local Labour Party branches, affiliated trade union branches and socialist societies, such as the Socialist Health Association and the Co-op Party.

In areas where branches are no longer part of the structures, CLPs are All-Member meetings for Labour Party members and Affiliated Supporters in that wider area to attend.

CLP meetings discuss political issues, plan campaigns and send delegates and motions to Labour Party conferences at both Scottish and UK level. If your constituency has Labour MSPs, they will normally attend to give a report, as will Labour Council leaders. CLP meetings often invite guest speakers to talk about topical issues.

Each CLP has officers such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer but also has positions such as Black & Minority Ethnic Officer, Political Education Officer, Trade Union Liaison Officer, Women’s Officer and Youth Officer. A gender balance applies to officer positions to ensure that at least 50% of the officers are women.

The key officers will meet regularly to oversee the running of the constituency and these meetings are known as Executive Committee (EC) meetings.