

Financing and resourcing Community Membership Support

Proposal

This proposal provides for the employment, on a one year contract (renewable on results subject to EC agreement), of a Regional Community Support Worker in each of the union's ten regions. The funding for this provision is detailed below.

It further addresses the issue of providing branch financing that will eventually allow community branches to operate free of financial support from the union's general fund.

Regional Community Support Workers

1. The national union reclaims monies held in various accounts across the union for the payment of administration allowances that have been withheld from branches who fail to meet the union's rules and branch financing criteria for a period in excess of two years.
 - This money amounts to just over £743,000 for the period March 2010 to March 2012 and it is separately accounted for in Central funds.
2. That the union advertises for 10 temporary posts (one per region) to support our Community Membership initiative.
3. That these Regional Community Support Workers be provided with a one year contract, renewable following review, and account to both the Executive Policy Unit and Regional Secretary for their work in supporting the union's roll out of Community Membership in the Regions including the development of Community Activists, Community Support and Training, establishing community branches, structures/networks and facilitating relationships within the regions.

The central union will fund from reclaimed monies the employment costs of these posts as well as the financing of campaigns and strategies to advance our members interests.

On-going training will be provided centrally to support the work of our Community Support Workers and ensure a coordinated roll-out of our initiative across the regions.

4. That regions be permitted to utilise further funding available on the same basis as above - as and when it becomes available - to further enhance community support within the region, although we would anticipate that following the branch reorganisation there will no longer be any significant sums unpaid in terms of branch administration.

Branch financing

Due to their small initial membership and contribution rate of fifty pence per week, monies available for the day to day financing of work, community branches will be extremely limited.

1. It is therefore proposed that an amount of money be made available from the general fund following a request from the responsible Community Support Worker to support the normal work of the Branch.

This amount should be payable quarterly and operate on a sliding scale until either the branch is self-financing or over a four year period, whichever is the sooner. This financial support will not

cover agreed campaigning activity which will be funded separately as is the case for all union campaigns.

2. The sliding scale will operate as follows;

- Year one - £500
- Year two - £400
- Year three - £300
- Year four - £200

Ends