

Democracy in UNISON



A guide to UNISON South East's democratic structures



REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

UNISON South East



As a trade union, UNISON is a democratic organisation. Democracy is at the heart of everything we do, from what we campaign on, to the structures within the union and the rules governing our membership.

All members of the national belong to a local UNISON branch. Over 102,000 members in 100 local branches form UNISON South East. Our members are our strength and our democracy is how our members make their voices heard.

Get involved!

If you'd like to get involved in the democracy of the region, attend Regional Council be nominated to one of the committees, please speak to your Branch Secretary or Regional Organiser.



UNISON's Democratic Structures



Regional Council

Our regional governing body which all branches are invited to participate in. It meets three times a year, including at an Annual General Meeting every February. It develops regional policies, ensures they are implemented, and determines the region's objectives in line with national priorities.

Convenors Group

Formed of the Regional Convenor and two Deputy Convenors, the Convenors Group are the most senior elected positions in the region. They are elected at the Regional Council AGM and they chair the meetings of the Regional Committee and Council.

UNISON's Democratic Structures



Regional Committee

The Regional Committee is the operational body of the Regional Council. The Regional Committee exercises the functions of the Regional Council between meetings and is accountable to the Regional Council, to which it submits regular reports.

National Executive Committee (NEC)

The NEC is the highest elected body in our union. Every two years, members in the South East vote to elect our region's representatives to the NEC. They represent our interests at a national level and are invited to all regional meetings to report back.

UNISON's Democratic Structures



Branch Support and Organising Fund Committee

Considers bids to the Branch Support and Organising Fund and monitors projects and expenditure.

Objectives Group

Made up of the Convenors Group, Chairs of the two Strategic Committees and NEC members from the South East, group receives updates on strategic national and regional issues affecting South East members. The Regional Management Team are also members.

UNISON's Democratic Structures



Development & Organising

Embeds organising into all regional activities. Monitors recruitment, retention, and branch constitutions. Supports branches struggling to meet rulebook requirements, and promotes practice.

Finance & Resource Management

Oversees all regional lay finances and proposes an annual budget. Monitors and administers regional funds, including the Campaign Fund, Outreach Fund, Organising Fund, and Jim Handley International Fund.

Organising Networks



Our five Organising Networks provide a new way for activists to take part in the region.

Each network will meet twice a year, and every branch will be invited to send at least one delegate to these day-long events. Participation will be focused on sharing best practice and opening opportunities for networking between branches.

The networks will elect their own chair and deputy chair on an annual basis.

HEALTH & SAFETY

INTERNATIONAL

WELFARE

EDUCATION

COMMUNICATIONS

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

SUB GROUPS

- Branch Support & Organising Fund
- Objectives Group
- Honoraria Panel
- Standing Orders Committee

STRATEGIC COMMITTEES

- Development & Organising
- Finance & Resource Management

ORGANISING NETWORKS

- Communications Officers
- Education Coordinators
- Health & Safety Reps
- International Officers
- Welfare Officers

SERVICE GROUP COMMITTEES

- Business & Environment
- Community
- Higher Education
- Local Government
- Police, Justice & CAFCASS

LABOUR LINK

REGIONAL EQUALITY ACTION GROUP

EQUALITY GROUPS

- Black members
- Disabled members
- LGBT+ members
- Retired members
- Women members
- Young members

REGIONAL COUNCIL

BRANCHES

