

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATION TO UNISON NEC LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT GENERAL SEAT  
SEÁN FOX HARINGEY LG BRANCH CODE 3478 MEMBERSHIP  
NUMBER 4531037**



[Sean4NEC@outlook.com](mailto:Sean4NEC@outlook.com)

Dear Thomas Connolly,

I am writing to ask if your Branch would nominate me in the forthcoming National Executive Council elections for the seat Local Government (General) nominations must be made by a quorate AGM or Branch Committee which takes place between 9<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 nominations must be submitted online, branches should receive a link from CES who are the returning officer for the election. If you cannot locate this please contact the nomination helpline on the UNISON Direct number 0800 0857 857.

I am standing because I want to help develop UNISON based around an organising approach with our members and their needs at the heart of the decisions we make. As a Union of over 1.3 million members they are our biggest asset and the NEC's primary objective should be to listen to and engage our members and then give take the strategic responsibility to deliver. I am committed to working with all in our Union to represent, defend and most importantly advance the interest of YOU our members.

I was a member of the NEC from 2017 to 2019 and am currently Chair of the National Joint Council Committee (responsible for pay and conditions for the majority of local government workers in England, Cymru Wales and Northern Ireland) and Chair of the London Local government Committee. I am a proud former member of the London LGBT Committee.

I have worked in local government for all of my working life and am Joint Branch Secretary in Haringey currently. In the face of austerity and a hostile government I am proud of our achievements for our members. These included delivering the London Living Wage in our contracted out care sector and the ongoing implementation of UNISON's Ethical Care Charter we did this by campaigning with both the community, service users and political engagement. More recently we successfully argued for the insourcing of our cleaning and facilities staff resulting in over 100 predominantly female workers being transferred onto local government conditions. We are continuing to campaign for further insourcing of services as we believe they will provide better value and certainly improve pay and conditions for staff.

As a Union we are rightly proud of our position as the biggest Union in the Country but our focus must be on continuing to grow and to recruit and organise even more. In particular we need to focus on areas of our potential membership such as Schools, social care, the voluntary sector and our private contractors.

We face the biggest assault on our standard of living in a generation combined with a government determined to pass ever more draconian anti Trade Union laws. The only credible response is to increase engagement of our members, a Union should not be seen as something that comes in to solve your problems it should be seen as something you collectively participate in and make decisions on where and how its resources are used. We need to speak up for local government and its workers. We need a new funding arrangement in England and changes in the devolved nations to protect and enhance the role of local government.

In terms of beating ballot thresholds, it has been shown we can do so and win in Scotland and the NHS and I believe we need to listen and learn from how this was achieved if we are serious.

Outside of the core Council employers we need to campaign for funding in Schools and Social Care. Our members kept services running during the Covid Crisis and we need to protect and enhance their role and we need to focus on making our voices heard to protect jobs and services. These workforces are overwhelmingly women and predominantly black so Pushing this agenda is an Equalities issue and will make a real difference for hundreds of thousands of members and potential members.

Pay will inevitably dominate our agenda. As current Chair of the NJC I understand the task we face in convincing our members that the fight for decent pay rises is winnable. I am committed to maximising engagement and organising in new ways to deliver for our members. However, I will always respect the democratic decisions our members reach on pay offers.

Our resources need to be focussed on winning for our members both collectively via campaigning, organising, lobbying and strike action where this is supported, as well as the use of our legal team. We can be rightly proud Brazel case on holiday pay for term time only workers that has changed the position to the benefit of tens of thousands of our members and potential members.

After 12 years of Conservative rule the very future of universal properly funded public services delivered by the public sector is at stake. We need an NEC focussed on the bigger picture.

**My priorities are:**

- **A renewed anti privatisation strategy which includes resources to help branches bring services back into direct control**
- **An updated plan for increasing the number of members covered by collective bargaining and UNISON Recognition -this is vital if we are to organise more effectively.**
- **High profile campaigns on pay and conditions and local government funding and campaigning material that helps us organise and educate our members**

- **Supporting Branches in their local campaigns and industrial action where this is supported by the members and helping link these up with similar campaigns across the Union.**
- **Continuing to develop our Self Organising Agenda and ensuring this is properly resourced**
- **A campaign to maximise member sign up to our Political Funds – Now more than ever we need a political voice.**