



PRESS RELEASE

Warning of Tough Times ahead in Union's New Year Message

The Northern Region's biggest general trade union has warned of much tougher times ahead for the region as we move into 2011. The GMB Union said that after one of the closest fought general elections in decades in 2010, the scale of change would put communities across the region under tremendous strain.

Tom Brennan GMB Northern Regional Secretary said:

"Given that no single Party won the May general election, it is scandalous that Liberal Democrats in particular are propping up a Tory Party that is vandalising so much of the fabric of Northern Region communities. Just look at the scale of what lies ahead; VAT up to 20%; public spending cuts that in local government alone are front loaded and average 28% over the period; the scrapping of the Regional Development Agency; delaying the announcement on new high speed train rolling stock; Tuition Fees being trebled".

"We know that the Tory record is one of hostility to the North, it has been every time they have been in Office particularly since the days of Thatcher. What is galling however to GMB members and their families at this festive time of year, is that Liberal Democrats are carrying out the donkey work and are the shield of a right wing Tory Party in the government.

"Liberal Democrat elected representatives in Redcar, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Carlisle, South Lakeland and their Alliance proxies in Allerdale, should hang their heads in shame at the scale of the economic and social vandalism they are inflicting on their communities."

"GMB members and their families here in the Northern Region are resilient people and know well who is hell bent on destroying our communities. Let me make it clear from the GMB Union that we will meet the challenges ahead with the resoluteness, vigour and purpose, to organise to fight for every job, every community and every family. That is our purpose and mission and we will carry that out everywhere where we see injustice perpetrated by politicians who have no mandate to do so".

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Contacts: Tom Brennan Regional Secretary 0191 2333954
Chris Jukes Political Officer 07870 176733

