



Issue 20: February 2009

# How Can I Crack the Credit Crunch?



Here's a few things you can do to help yourself in these uncertain times:

1. Make use of the offers from UNISON's approved suppliers on the branch web site—[www.unisonlincoln.co.uk](http://www.unisonlincoln.co.uk).
2. If there is no Union Representative in your workplace, you could sign up as a Representative—contact the Branch Office for more details. If you don't want to be a Representative become a contact point, this way you and your colleagues will know what UNISON is doing.
3. If you have any ideas about how your employer can save money please feed these back to the Branch. We will raise them with the employer.
4. Pass this newsletter on to non members and encourage them to join. More members means UNISON's voice is louder—and that benefits existing members too.

*in lincs*  
**NEWSLETTER**

## There's Never Been a Better Time to be in UNISON Because ...

1. Times are hard and no job is safe. If cuts come we can support you.
2. We know that when times get hard managers get tougher.
3. Some Councils are using the credit crunch as "political cover" to cut back jobs and services. In the East Midlands Amber Valley Borough Council slashed nearly a quarter of its jobs in December 2008—and the credit crunch had nothing to do with it.
4. UNISON does not help people on matters that arose before they were a member—so complete the form on page 4 and join now.
5. You can benefit from the offers on our website.

When we speak to our members



When we speak on behalf of our members



### Our Next Branch Annual General Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: 18 March 2009  
 Time: 6.00 pm  
 Venue: County Offices Lincoln

### Want to become a Workplace Representative? Or a Contact?:

Contact the Branch Office for more details on 01522 554910.

## UNISON's Car Leasing Benefit Scheme

Members can obtain up to 40% discount on leasing new vehicles. Affinity Leasing negotiate huge discounts from manufacturers and car dealers and pass them on to you. In some instances prices beat What Car's Target Prices by 100%!

Personal Contract Hire enables members to:

- Beat depreciation costs on new cars
- Fix payments to suit your budget
- A full range of greener vehicles and driving a new car means better fuel efficiency and lower emissions.

All prices for new cars include:

- Road fund licence
- Manufacturer's Warranty
- Free Accident Management for the duration of the contract
- Manufacturer's Breakdown Recovery (term of which may vary according to manufacturer scheme).

Monthly rental for Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Studio (8,000 miles per year) is £252.99 with a deposit of £758.97 (inc VAT).

You can contact Affinity on 084 50 57 57 50 or view the Affinity Leasing website at [www.affinity-leasing.com](http://www.affinity-leasing.com). (Just click the Members button on the left of the home page, then click the UNISON logo. The user name is *unison*, and the password is *car deal*).

# Probation Services ... are under attack!

By Steve Allnutt

Probation Services across the country are under attack ... in Lincolnshire where nearly 100 members work, massive budget cuts from the Ministry of Justice will affect staff here, and affect other members in the police civilian, courts and prisons.

Whilst local management admit there will be significant shortfalls in their budgets for 2010, redundancies will be avoided.

Across England and Wales some £200m worth of cuts will begin to bite, the government say "this is not due to current credit crunch effects"?

In a mass lobby of parliament before Christmas, hundreds of UNISON members converged on Westminster to ensure their voices were heard.

In Lincolnshire UNISON members lobbied their own

MP's as part of the recent Justice Week.

The National Probation Service—Lincolnshire members represent nearly 40% of the work force across a range of different grades.

Lincolnshire's application to become a Trust follows pressure from central government to reduce the 42 Services and encourage merges with other Service's in their own region.

Privatisation of Community Service (Unpaid Work) and Hostels are hot issues that are being challenged to ensure 'hiving off' to save money doesn't reduce local decision making and local sentencers' powers to control what is currently in house.

## Disabled Members Self Organisation Group

### Contact Us

☎ 01522 554910

Fax: 01522 554909

info@lincunison.org.uk

www.unisonlincoln.co.uk

*"To promote, empower and encourage participation by disabled members throughout UNISON, and raise awareness of disability issues in Lincolnshire."*

**Join us at our next meeting on 24 February 4.00 pm, Committee Room 3, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln.**

Disabled members who are interested in getting involved in the group and would like further information, please contact Trevor Majer on 01522 550793 or the UNISON office on 01522 554910, alternatively email [trevormajer@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:trevormajer@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and include the following details:

Your Name:                      Address for Correspondence:  
Postcode:                      Place of work:

**Deadline for articles for the June issue:**  
1 May 2009.

For those who are not already a member of UNISON, or if you have a colleague who might be interested in joining please see application form on the back of this newsletter.



## Have you changed your: Name, home address, workplace or job title?

Please let the Branch Office know if you change your: Name, Workplace, Job Title or Home Address. This is so we can send you UNISON information and to comply with legal restrictions should we need to ballot members for industrial action.

To inform the Office of any changes, please complete the tear off slip below and return to:  
Lincolnshire County UNISON, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln. LN1 1YL. ☎ 01522 554910

**Name** .....

**Membership Number:** .....

**Home Address:** .....  
.....

**Job Title:** .....

**Workplace Address:** .....  
.....

Application form goes here