

# Elect Ian Allinson

## Unite General Secretary 2017



### About Ian Allinson

“I’ve been a workplace activist for 25 years at Fujitsu, building up the union in a largely unorganised industry. I led the first national strike in my industry in 2009-10.

I’m chair of Unite’s UK combine in Fujitsu, where my own workplace in Manchester is currently in dispute and taking strike action over pay, pensions and job security. Nationally we’re fighting against job cuts from automation and offshoring.

Members have fought off attempts to victimise me and other reps. Unlike the two establishment candidates, I’m in the workplace, at the sharp end like the thousands of other reps and activists who make Unite the fighting union it is today.

For ten years I served on the Amicus and Unite executives before stepping down in 2014.

For nine years I have run my own web site to get information out to Unite members, as the union is pretty bad at this ([www.iansunite.org.uk](http://www.iansunite.org.uk))”



## Unite needs a shake-up

–Not “more of the same” McCluskey

–Not “turn the clock back” Coyne

**This election shouldn’t be happening. It is the second time that Len McCluskey has foisted a premature election on us based on a false premise. Many activists recognise the election timetable as an undemocratic manoeuvre which minimises members’ voice.**

This election must not become a battle between Len McCluskey, offering more of the same, and Gerard Coyne, offering to turn the clock back to the bad old days when our union backed New Labour even while they attacked our own members – and saw membership decline. If members want a Corbyn government, Unite needs to shift the debate by fighting in workplaces and communities now, rather than over-relying on internal battles within Labour.

Despite some progress during McCluskey’s time as General Secretary, our union is still falling far short of an adequate response to the onslaught members are facing from government, local authorities and employers.

There have been too many missed opportunities. Why was there no call for action or even a national demonstration in defence of the NHS when the Junior Doctors had the government on the ropes? Why was the momentum over public sector pensions frittered away? Why did we waste the opportunity around the London Olympics to tackle the illegal blacklist? Why did we not call effective action when New Labour and employers attacked us at Grangemouth, or call for nationalisation which could have put huge pressure on both the SNP and Westminster governments? Why was our response to the Trade Union Act so pitiful?

McCluskey and Coyne, the two establishment candidates, both back expensive vanity projects like Trident, HS2, Hinkley Point, and Heathrow expansion. Rather than tailing Tories and the big business agenda we need to campaign for jobs which benefit members, our families, communities and the environment. Neither establishment candidate is clearly championing workers’ right to free movement. Neither wants members to elect officers of their choice.

**Only Ian Allinson, the grassroots candidate, shares the frustrations of members first hand.**

## What Ian stands for:

- 1 Put someone at the top of our union who knows how it feels at the sharp end. Improve communication with activists with fortnightly direct email bulletins, not filtered and delayed through officers and committees. We must tackle the huge numbers of non-functioning branches so every member has a voice.
- 2 Take action when it has most potential – stop the endless missed opportunities.
- 3 A real campaign against the Trade Union Act by linking with other campaigns defending human rights.
- 4 Build on the successes of Unite organising by connecting it with our membership and democratic structures.
- 5 Champion workers' freedom of movement and fight for equal pay, as members won at Fawley oil refinery. No concessions to nationalism and racism.
- 6 Unlike both establishment candidates, I oppose partnership with employers to support costly vanity projects like Trident, HS2, Heathrow expansion and Hinkley Point. Back a million climate jobs instead.
- 7 Back Jeremy Corbyn, the first Labour leader in decades who backs Unite members. Stop undermining him on key policy issues. Build workplace and community resistance now to shift the terms of debate – “wait for Jeremy” won't be enough. Coyne's opposition to “Westminster power games” is the biggest power game of all – hence members' enemies on Labour's right backing him.
- 8 I support members electing their own officials, so we choose who represents us and whose salaries we pay, whereas McCluskey and Coyne want to tell members who will represent us. I wouldn't take the current inflated salary for General Secretary, I would stay on my current wage.
- 9 Equality and young members' work has to be better integrated into our industrial work. Community and paying retired members should not be excluded from proportionate participation in Unite's structures.
- 10 The government has slashed funding for adult education, threatening union education too. Effective education and training for activists is central to rejuvenating our union, while tutors deserve to be treated fairly, so education needs an overhaul.

**Much more via [www.ian4unite.org](http://www.ian4unite.org)**

## Election Process

- Candidates must secure at least 50 nominations. Branches (including community and retired member branches) can nominate, as can workplaces where the branch covers more than one workplace. Nomination meetings must take place 16 Jan – 17 Feb.
- Voting takes place 27 March – 19 April.
- Read the rules for the election and campaigning, which are available via [www.ian4unite.org](http://www.ian4unite.org)

**To nominate Ian Allinson you need his membership number (30439666) and branch (NW/55).**

## How to support ian4unite

**Ian doesn't have the resources of the establishment candidates who are well-paid from members' subs and have powerful backers. If you want things to change, please get involved. Get in touch via the “leave your details” form on [www.ian4unite.org](http://www.ian4unite.org), email [ian4unite@gmail.com](mailto:ian4unite@gmail.com) or phone 07985 438 553 to offer whatever help you can. For example:**

- Will you publicly endorse Ian Allinson for Unite General Secretary? Email the details.
- Request leaflets and other campaign materials – the campaign can suggest local workplaces you could contact.
- Like, follow, share and retweet on social media.
- Campaigning costs money. Can you donate or collect money? Members can donate either via [www.donorbox.org/ian4unite](http://www.donorbox.org/ian4unite), or by cheque payable to Ian Allinson, 11 Germain Close, Higher Blackley, Manchester, M9 0SQ. Branches can only donate after nominating. Donations will be receipted. Any member can inspect the campaign finances.
- Send details of people the campaign should contact.
- Contact local media to promote the campaign.
- Send in your ideas for how Unite could improve.
- Let us know when your nomination meeting will be. Invite Ian or someone from the campaign to speak at your branch or workplace meeting, or to visit your workplace.
- If you want to nominate from your workplace, request nomination forms from your Regional Secretary from 2 January.
- Secure a nomination from your branch and/or workplace.