



# Provision of Internet space for every Trades Union Council and County Association.

Leftspace is very pleased to be working with the TUC Organising and Services Department to provide an internet platform of use to local Trades Union Councils as part of [unionsinthecommunity.org.uk](http://unionsinthecommunity.org.uk).

'Unions in the Community' is the website dedicated to the work of the trades union council movement. It brings together news and information relevant to the work of trades councils as well as their contact details.

We are now looking at expanding [unionsinthecommunity](http://unionsinthecommunity) so that each trades union council has the opportunity to have its own internet space within the website where it can promote local campaigns, put up articles or simply advertise the next meeting of the trades council.



## Who is this mailing for?

Local trades councils are run by overworked volunteers and many have not been able to promote their work on a dedicated website because of technical and financial hurdles - and having the time to do it!

A minority of trades councils have overcome these difficulties and manage to run very informative and useful local websites. We're sure they will wish to continue to maintain their own websites. In these cases the central website will point or link to the locally maintained website. This mailing is primarily aimed at the 120 trades councils who do not have a website of their own.

Leftspace and the TUC have developed a dedicated area for trades union councils all around the country which, once activated, a trades council will have a unique Domain Name (web address) and an area of the website for any number of articles and pictures.

Trades union councils do not have to worry about maintaining the website, the security of the website, or regular backups. All of this is managed centrally and effectively free of charge to local trades union councils.

## Updating your website.

Once activated, you will be given a username and password to use. Once logged in, you will be able to post articles, with images and embedded videos, which will appear in your dedicated area. In practise, you can publish any number of articles.

## Your own Domain Name. Example: [melchestertuc.co.uk](http://melchestertuc.co.uk)

You will be provided with a unique domain name of your choice (if available) which, when clicked, will take you to your dedicated area, with your content showing first. [Click](#) to see example website. This allows you to put your web address on your stationary and leaflets.



## All this for a cost of £50

Leftspace has agreed to provide this service exclusive to local trades councils for a one off cost of £50.

### This includes:

- 1) Domain name of your choice valid for 2 years (normal price £10 for 2 years).
- 2) "How to ..." tutorial video showing how to publish an article.
- 3) Three 30 minute telephone support sessions, where we can answer any questions you have.

We are confident that this package can enable any local volunteer to easily publish content which will enable greater publicity for the work you are already doing. If you subsequently decide to move to a new, entirely independent website, you will be able to do so and keep your unique domain name which will continue to work under your local control.

- **Promote upcoming meetings, reports, local strike info etc.**
- **Place minutes and articles on website**
- **Encourage local unions and community groups to supply content**

### Optional extra

Leftspace can also provide additional training and support to a local trades council if you require it. We can agree an enhanced training and support package (for additional local volunteers for example) for up to £300. Following discussion with you we will agree an online tutorial, for up to six participants for a 6 hour training package at a mutually agreed date. You may wish to consider asking your union branch affiliates to sponsor the training or make an application to the Trades Union Council Development Fund through your regional TUC secretary.

### How do we get this package?

Easy, contact Leftspace and say you wish to discuss the "**Your Trades Union Council on the web**" special offer. Alternatively, email us at [localtuc@leftspace.co.uk](mailto:localtuc@leftspace.co.uk) giving your name and Trades Union Council, tell us how to contact you and we can discuss it further. Feel free to phone us on **0208 133 6119** (even on the weekend!). Leftspace will inform the Organising Department of each trades council taking up the offer.

### Who is Leftspace?

We are a small, labour movement dedicated Internet Service Provider built specifically for those local arms of the trade union and labour movement who have very little financial resources themselves and limited access to the necessary technical expertise. As part of this we use free to use Open Source software for maximum flexibility and local ownership and control of your campaign tools. Our work on this Trades Council platform is a further move to reduce the barriers for local volunteers when trying to take advantage of the internet in general.

Overtime, we hope to work with all relevant organisations to further improve the usefulness of this website which, with your participation and support, can prove to be an increasingly powerful tool for building links between the trades union council movement and the wider community.