

# GMB Manufacturing Newsletter

Dear Colleagues

Manufacturing in the London Region has proven challenging over the last few months, this is mainly due to the sad and unexpected news of the closure of the Coca-Cola factory at Milton Keynes. Coca-Cola's proposals involve the manufacturing site at Milton Keynes and the distribution site at Northampton, (a Unite site) to take place early next year. Richard Owen, GMB Officer for the factory is leading the campaign and meeting with the local council leader and local MP to discuss what help they may be able to offer. I am sure we will be kept up to date with events as they unfold. We should where necessary offer Richard any support required.

In addition the campaign continues with Colmans Mustards, owned by Unilever and Britvic Robinsons Soft Drinks in Norwich, led by GMB Officer Ivan Mercer and support from the Norwich MP Clive Lewis. The announcement to move production closer to London and the M1 corridor has an overall impact on the Norwich community and indeed our members. When these situations arise we must show a united front and fight to the bitter end to protect the jobs of our members and the effects on the economic future of the regions affected.

## LONDON REGION 'MAKING IT' CAMPAIGN.

Our campaign for manufacturing jobs in London was officially launched in City Hall London on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March with a number of activists and National Officer, Jude Brimble and her team from National Office, Mary Turner House in Euston. We launched a successful day with the Manufacturing Section National President Andy Irving opening the campaign and Jude Brimble delivering the campaign core message followed by the 'We're Making It' - GMB Members campaign film.

Sadiq Khan Mayor of London gave a very good conference address about why manufacturing matters and we followed this with the Mayor signing the GMB Manufacturing Charter and a photoshoot with activists.



Following the photoshoot we held a 'Why Manufacturing Matters in London' panel discussion with Clive Lewis MP, Rajesh Agrawal MP and Eamon O'Hearn, Manufacturing National Officer. This was a very interesting and useful debate with some very good questions from our activists supported by the panels' responses on various issues.

I myself gave a brief explanation on taking the campaign forward in the London Region including plans to gather all the activists and Officers responsible and working in manufacturing.

The London Region would like to thank National Officer Jude Brimble and team and of course the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, Clive Lewis MP, Rajesh Agrawal MP and Dr Onkar Sahota for their support of the 'Making IT' campaign.

Last but not least a huge thank you to all our Officers and Activists who helped make the day extremely interesting. Well done to all of you who attended, I was extremely proud of you all and as the Manufacturing Lead officer I can proudly say that you put Manufacturing and the 'Making IT Campaign' up in lights for the London Region and I look forward to you all assisting me in moving the campaign forward.

**Shaun Graham**  
**Senior Organiser - Manufacturing**