Since 2015, SEPA Unison has affiliated to Aberdeen Trades Union Council (ATUC), a body made up of affiliated trade union branches and organisations working in the Aberdeen and Shire area. Established in 1868, ATUC has a long history of promoting the interests of workers in the region and provides services to affiliated branches on a wide range of industrial, social and community issues. As an affiliated branch, SEPA Unison members can attend Council meetings as delegates, and can participate in Council activities. I have been attending ATUC on this basis since 2015, and for the last two years have served as Secretary on ATUC’s executive committee. I thought our AGM would be a good time to let members know a bit more about ATUC, and what it does!

ATUC acts to promote the interests of affiliated organisations, and to secure united action on all questions affecting or likely to affect those interests. ATUC also organises large-scale events and marches in the Aberdeen area, including the annual May Day and St Andrew’s Day parades, and the International Workers Memorial Day ceremony at Persley Walled Garden.

ATUC support the work of many partner organisations, including seeking improvement to social services, public education, housing and health, and promoting suitable cultural, educational, social and sports facilities for all. The Council is active on union and community campaigns for dignity and respect in the workplace and beyond, promoting equality and diversity, and plays an active role in local campaigning against fascism and racism.

As an affiliated body with the STUC, ATUC supports its work and objectives and acts as its local body, implementing and making more widely known, both its national and area policies. ATUC also contributes to forming STUC policy making by submitting motions to the annual Congress and sending delegates to Congress to vote on all motions. I have attended STUC as an ATUC delegate on two occasions, in 2015 (motions on - Affordable rent; Standing up to UKIP; Austerity) and in 2017 (motions on - Worker safety issues during AWPR construction; Palestinian rights) and I will be attending this year’s Congress again, in Perth.

Trade union activity in Inverdee House includes not only Unison (SEPA), but also Prospect (JNCC/ SNH) and PCS (SNH). With SEPA Unison and PCS SNH both represented at ATUC (and Prospect JNCC considering affiliation) - and Prospect JHI also affiliated - ATUC has a strong ‘green’ contingent, and is actively involved in Just Transition campaigning and consultations – particularly relevant in the ‘Oil Capital of Europe’!

ATUC produces an annual report, which includes not only updates on its own activities, but also reports from affiliated union branches, and local campaigning groups and organisations it supports. Recent reports are available here <https://aberdeentuc.blogspot.com/p/agm-2014.html>. ATUC also has a blog spot (<https://aberdeentuc.blogspot.com/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenTUC/>) – both worth checking out!

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| Fiona Napier  SEPA Unison steward  Inverdee House |  |