



For council and school workers

5 February 2020

Issue Number 01

Initial local government pay offer rejected – talks continue

The National Joint Council (NJC) Executive met today, for the employers to respond to the trade unions' local government pay claim for 2020.

Our claim was for a new minimum rate of £10 an hour, and 10% for everybody else. We also asked for improvements in annual leave and working hours, and joint work on mental health.

The employers made an initial pay offer of a one-year deal of 2% across all pay points from 1 April.

During negotiations, UNISON's representatives expressed huge disappointment with the opening offer. We argued that pay settlements elsewhere have been higher, and this pay offer would leave local government further behind other parts of the public sector, as well as the Government's long-term plans for the national living wage.

Since 2010, local government workers' pay has fallen significantly in real terms, and as a result many of our members are struggling to get by.

UNISON called on the employers to think again and make a better offer. They agreed re-convene their full negotiating body to consider the points we made, before meeting with us again for further negotiations. We urged the employers to carry out this process as quickly as possible.

Actions for members and branches

In the meantime, there is plenty that members, activists and branches can do.

It's vital that we keep up the political pressure. We need local politicians to support our campaign. UNISON has produced a tool to enable you to email your local councillors, explaining our pay campaign and asking for their support.

All you need to do is click here: <https://action.unison.org.uk/page/47685/action/1> and put in your details. The website will produce a draft email to send to your local councillors, which you can amend and personalise.

A Joint Trade Union Side model council motion on NJC pay is also available, along with a version specifically for local authorities in Greater London. Please try to get councillors to discuss and support the motion, and then feed back their views to your region. Click here for this and many other campaign resources: <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/fair-pay-now-council-school-workers/>

Update your membership records

Branches are asked to ensure that your membership is mapped and your membership records are up to date, so that if an industrial action ballot is called, the process of preparing our membership records can be done as quickly as possible.

Our Pay Up Now campaign web page contains a link for members to update their details – please encourage them to do this! <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/fair-pay-now-council-school-workers/>