

Vital services

Valued staff

You deserve better

You won't need telling that local government workers are under the cosh – whether it's attacks on your conditions, your pension, redundancies or cuts.



As if that weren't enough, the employers have now decided to impose a pay freeze – really a cut-from April this year.

While other public sector workers in the NHS, police, probation, universities and colleges will get an increase, you will be worse off because inflation is over 2% and rising.

The employers are angry that we achieved a 1% increase last year and an extra 0.5% award from ACAS the year before. While you have been doing your utmost to keep council services going, your reward is a pay cut.

UNISON, GMB and UNITE are working hard together to improve your pay and conditions,

protect your job and your pension.

We say that the pay cut is a scandal. You have covered for vacant posts for years, helped local people through the crisis, dealt with floods and snow and are already the worst paid in the public sector. You deserve better!

What did we ask for?

A £500 flat rate increase or 2.5% – whichever is the greater

Why 2.5% or £500 is reasonable, justified and necessary!

■ Local government workers are already the worst paid across the whole public sector

■ Other local government workers like teachers

and fire fighters will get an increase this year. For teachers it's 2.4%. You could be working alongside them on a pay cut!

■ Nearly all public sector workers got a bigger pay rise than you did last year – the same is set to happen this year

■ You did not cause the economic crisis – you should not have to pay for it

■ In any case, the 'crisis' in many councils is self-inflicted and nothing to do with the credit crunch. They have made a political choice to freeze or cut council tax and created a big hole in their finances

■ Most councils budgeted for a pay rise of 2% or more this year

■ Councils have been given funding for pay in their grant from central government. What's happened to it?

■ Inflation (RPI) is likely to rise well above 3% in 2010. In December 2009 we witnessed the biggest inflation jump for a generation – it now stands at 2.4%

■ Councils will get nearly £3 billion more in government grants this year. According to data supplied by councils themselves, they started 2009/10 with more money in reserves than at the start of 2008/09. Unallocated reserves stand at £3 billion

■ We need to invest in our local economies by investing in the local government workforce – not by pay freezes or redundancies

What can you do to support the campaign?

■ Ask your employer what assumptions they were making about pay in 2010/11 when they agreed their 3-year financial plan in March 2009. Why has it changed? How was it justified?

■ Let them know that you're worth (at least) what we're asking for. 2.5% will not even meet this year's cost of living increase

■ Contact your MP and local councillors and tell them what you think

■ Talk to the local press and media to let them know what you think

■ Low pay, redundancies, attacks on our pensions and outsourcing are all taking place. To fight back we need to campaign on all fronts as unions together.

■ Think how we can reach out to other organisations-especially service users – and campaign jointly with them

■ Talk to non members about what we are campaigning for and encourage them to join a trade union

Remember...

■ In many councils, pay cuts and redundancies are political choices. Council tax cuts are designed to get votes in the forthcoming elections. They don't have to happen! Together, we can shape those choices.

■ Councils can afford to pay you more – they are lying when they say they can't !