

LG/15/2010

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To: Secretaries of Local Government Branches in England, Wales
and Northern Ireland
(Scotland – for information)
Regional Heads of Local Government
Registered Professional/Sectional Bodies - for information

19 March 2010

NJC Pay 2010 – 2011: Update

This circular brings you up to date with the NJC pay situation and the forthcoming lobby outside the employers HQ. Branches are asked to keep up the pressure on councillors and MPs for negotiations to deliver a pay rise and send a representative (or two!) to the lobby.

No sign of a thaw...

We continue to press the employers for a meeting of the NJC Executive. In spite of their slowness in setting up a meeting with us, we still believe it is vital that we seek engagement with the employers over this and all the other big issues affecting local government workers.

What Labour and Lib Dem Councilors are saying

Our follow up letter to Labour and Liberal Democrat councilors saw an overwhelming majority of Labour councilors supporting an increase. Several of them are supporting our position through motions in council chambers condemning the 'no offer'. Interestingly, of the Liberal Democrats who replied to us, around half supported an increase and the other half supported their national position of sympathy but no outright support. We are making progress and winning the argument!

What the political parties' position is over local government pay..

All the main political parties have differing positions over local government pay. As we can see below, some of them are contradictory and certainly undervalue the role of local government workers. Some broader national policies on pay don't seem to apply to our members in local government – we are asking why!

Our claim of **£500 or 2.5%**, whichever is the greater, is reasonable:

- The Labour Group on the LGA support a **1%** rise
- The Liberal Democrats support a **£400** across the board increase for public sector workers, regardless of starting salary – which they will **'propose in future years'**
- George Osborne has talked about a 'pay freeze' for those earning above £18k from 2011, not 2010 – but not below – that's over 60% of NJC workers.

Lobby the Employers

The Joint NJC Trade Union lobby is taking place on the 30th March at Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1. The lobby is being organised as part of our Vital Services, Valued Staff campaign, to raise the issues of cuts, redundancies and the pay freeze in local government with the Local Government Employers.

The lobby coincides with a Total Place Conference being organised by the LGA, so we will need people to assemble at Smith Square from 9 o'clock but envisage the lobby will be finished by 11.

We really want the lobby to show how our members feel over the pay freeze and cuts in local government and have asked branches to send one person to come and make up that voice. So far we have had a low response please reply urgently to njcpay2010@unison.co.uk and let us know if you are able to send a representative to the lobby.

Join in the action...

Lobby of Local Government Employers/Association

Date: 30 March 2010

Venue: Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P

Time: Assemble at 9.00 am, due to end 11.00 am at the latest

With best wishes,

Heather Wakefield
National Secretary
Local Government Service Group