

Full Council, 31 October 2017

Opposition Motion: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Local Government Pay

Council notes that:

- For most workers in local government and schools, pay and other terms and conditions are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services.
- On average, across the country, NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2010.
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012 and have received only 1% pay increase annually since then.
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector.
- Differentials in pay grades are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased Statutory National Living Wage.
- The likelihood of rising inflation following the vote to leave the European Union will worsen the current public sector pay inequality.

Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector.

Council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

Council further notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide all additional resources to ensure local authorities can fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the Local Government Association asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC pay claim and the pay spine review;
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review;
- Write to the local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.

[Under FCPR 23.5 I request that my motion is voted on at the meeting.]