

Council: 31 October 2017

Agenda Item 14.5 – Opposition amendment in the name of Cllr Ammar Naqvi

Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings – Local government pay

Delete all and replace with (addition in bold):

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.

Council believes that people should get a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Council notes that the Real Living Wage, calculated annually by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission, is the only UK rate based on what families need to cover the cost of living.

Council therefore believes that LB Barnet should work towards becoming an accredited Real Living Wage council so that all contracted-out staff delivering Council services, as well as in-house staff, are paid at least the Real Living Wage (the London Living Wage in London).

Thereafter LB Barnet should encourage private sector employers in Barnet to pay at least London's Living Wage to their employees.

Council asks that Real Living Wage / London Living Wage accreditation is referred to the relevant committee for consideration and action.

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