PIONEER UNISON

ROCHDALE www.unison-

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General Election Shows People are fed up with Austerity

The General Election on 8th June showed that the majority of people in Britain do not accept the Government's commitment to everlasting austerity for us and massive increases in wealth for the rich. Although Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party did not win the election the Conservatives lost seats overall and do not have a majority.

Corbyn's pledges to increase the minimum wage to £10 per hour, to build more council housing, to end zero hours contracts, to end privatisation in the NHS, to scrap tuition fees and to reverse anti trade union legislation were all massively popular.

Theresa May's dementia tax, cuts to pensions and winter fuel allowances showed she was out of touch with how ordinary people live. Her Government is now weak. Her cuts can be pushed back and defeated.

UNISON welcomes Corbyn's successes in the election and we hope to see policies that benefit ordinary working people becoming Government policies in the near future.

Rochdale Unison Retired Members

We meet the second Tuesday in every month at Rochdale Town Hall at 1.30pm. Usually between 15-20 members attend regularly and we have a much larger mailing list.

We are arranging a programme of trips/discussions and talks reflecting the diverse interests of retired Trades Unionist.

We send delegates to the National Conference for Retired Members as well as to the Pensioner's Parliament and to Unison Regional Meetings. The Secretary of our Group attends Rochdale Unison Branch Committee.

So far this year we have had a lunch at Rochdale College, we are having an escorted tour of The People's History Museum in Manchester, we have had a talk on pest control and a Branch Officer is updating us on Branch activities at our July Meeting. We are in the process of arranging a tour of Rochdale Town Hall/The Pankhurst Centre/BBC Media City as well as considering other topics for our meetings.

We have had members attend the action in support of publicising the terms & conditions in care homes in our region and the Workers Memorial Day this Spring.

We would welcome new members!

Please contact the Branch Office for contact details.

Inflation is taking off- We need a pay rise

The Government want to continue with an austerity pay cap of 1% for our pay next year. If pay is capped at 1% from 2018 - 2019, the average local government wage will fall in value by nearly £1,200. This would be on top of a real terms loss in pay of some 21% since 2009.

Inflation is predicted to remain in excess of 3% for the next five years. This means that the cost of living for our members will rise by nearly 18% by 2021. In that context, a 1% pay offer for the sector would be unacceptable.

Women are more than three quarters of the NJC workforce. The gender pay gap has widened in the public sector since the pay cap was introduced, even though it has narrowed in the wider economy. Endemic low pay is a gender issue and represents the undervaluing of women's skills, knowledge and experience in schools and council services.

In this context, it is clear that the 1 per cent cap is unsustainable. The cap must not be applied in 2018/19 – or in any future year. Following extensive consultation with our members, the Trade Union Side believes that only a settlement of at least 5 per cent, with the bottom pay point set at the level of the Foundation Living Wage, would be a fair reward for their endeavours and lost wages over the last eight years.

Table 1: Impact of RPI inflation on SCP 21 salary (e.g. care worker). salary SCP 21 salary if grew by RPI % inflation salary above actual salary 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

Year	SCP 21	salary if grew by RPI %	inflation above actual salary
2010	£19,126	£20,006	4.6%
2011	£19,126	£21,046	10.0%
2012	£19,126	£21,720	13.6%
2013	£19,317	£22,371	15.8%
2014	£19,317	£22,908	18.6%
2015	£19,742	£23,137	17.2%
2016	£19,939	£23,554	18.1%
2017	£20,138	£24,378	21.1%

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