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UNISON to accept local government pay offer

Following a meeting of local government representatives from across UNISON, the union has decided today (Wednesday) to accept the pay offer from the employers.

Head of local government Heather Wakefield said: "Having talked to members in local government across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we've decided that there are to be no further consultations and we have agreed to accept the employers' pay offer for 2016/18."

The offer is for a pay deal that would cover the two years from April 2016. For the lowest paid (those on spinal points 6-17) this would mean a pay rise of between 6.6% and 1.01% the first year, and between 3.4% and 1.3% the second.

Those on spinal points 18-49 would receive 1% in year one and the same again the following year.

The offer also includes a joint review of the NJC pay spine and term-time working for school

Are your membership details up to date?

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Please send us your email address to unison@rochdale.gov.uk with the subject Newsletter and we will send this newsletter to you electronically.



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Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

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Fill in the form on the back and send it to the address below

Rochdale UNISON, Branch Office, 46 Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

The Trade Union Bill – how we campaigned for key changes

The Trade Union Bill went back to the House of Commons. We didn't manage to defeat the entire bill, but we did manage to remove several elements of it that would have irrevocably damaged the trade union movement.

The final bill looks drastically different from when it was proposed last year and to achieve that, we ran a campaign to be proud of.

UNISON members across the UK took part. There were marches in major cities, members visited their MPs and wrote to their local councillors, others attended Parliament for a mass lobby, there was a week of action in February, and much more.

So what did we achieve?

The key changes we won:

- union members can continue to pay their subs via payroll if they wish. The government withdrew plans to ban public sector workers from having their union subs deducted from their wages (check-off);
- plans to give the Certification Officer (who regulates trade unions) unnecessary power over unions and to charge unions to fund it were watered down;
- plans to restrict union political funds (which fund our work with the Labour Party as well as local campaigns, such as saving local hospitals) were watered down. The changes in funding policy will now only apply to new members and the costs and effort will be much reduced;
- the government agreed to a review of online methods for strike ballots, which would help increase turnouts;
- plans to cap union public sector facility time have been watered down. They will now only happen in occasional cases, after at least three years of research and negotiation with ministers.

Workers Memorial Day — Thursday 28th April 2016

The branch would like to thank everyone who attended the event including the Mayor and Rochdale Borough Council Chief Executive, Steve Rumbelow for delivering a speech and laying the wreath on the day.



Did you know?

UNISON provides quality legal services for employment-related and non-work issues at no extra cost to members and their family. In fact, UNISON provides the broadest range of legal help to union members in the UK.

UNISON Legal services covers

- **Employment advice**
- **Personal injury service** – covers any accident which happens either outside or in the workplace, including assaults at work and industrial disease claims as well as road traffic accidents and accidents on holiday. ***
- **Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) claims** for work-related injury due to a violent crime
- **Work-related criminal offences**
- **Wills** – free wills service for members, with reduced rates for family members;
- **Conveyancing** – discounted for members and their family members;
- **Clinical negligence** – free screening service to assess a potential legal claim for members affected by clinical negligence for members and their family members.
- **Free legal advice on any non-employment issue** from UNISON's lawyers. This service entitles you to receive a 30-minute telephone interview.

*** Rochdale UNISON Members whose claims were successful amounted to compensation pay-outs totalling over £35,000 in 2015 and over £17,000 so far in 2016. The injuries ranged from assaults by Service Users, to broken limbs, to slips/trips within the workplace.



Rochdale TTIP Free Zone

Our local businesses, environment and democracy are under threat from a trade deals currently being negotiated in secret.

Trade deals like TTIP (between the EU and the USA) and CETA (between the EU and Canada) would have a big impact on councils. They could outlaw local authorities' support of local businesses, allow multinational corporations to sue us if councils deny fracking permits and open up services to privatisation.

Over 1500 councils across Europe have already said they don't want TTIP and in the UK more than 35 councils have declared themselves TTIP free zones. Rochdale Council is one of these zones.

'We will support the junior doctors in this fight – and we will win'

UNISON members from Rochdale UNISON have been supporting the junior doctors strike and visiting their picket lines.

The last strike was at the same time as UNISON's health conference in Brighton.

Delegates marched through the city before joining together at a rally near the hospital.

The rally followed several messages of solidarity and support sent by delegates at the conference to the striking doctors.

Addressing the rally UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis had one key message:

"We will support the junior doctors in this fight ... and we will win."

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Our Affiliated Political Fund takes UNISON members' views directly into the Labour Party, working to promote UNISON policies.

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