

Inside this issue:

- 1.75 % - Offer Rejected
- Rochdale Climate Protest
- COP26 Global Day of Action

GET READY

UNISON, Unite and GMB – between them representing 1.4m council and school staff in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – have written to the local government employers asking them to return to the negotiating table to improve the 1.75% offer the unions say has left staff “disappointed and angry”.

In consultation exercises held by each of the unions, an overwhelming majority of workers who took part voted to reject the offer. UNISON, Unite and GMB are now preparing industrial action ballots, asking workers to vote for strike action in support of their pay claim.

In the joint letter, the unions say: “Over the last year these key workers have shown how indispensable they are, going over and above to provide essential services, often putting their own health and safety at risk.

“The 1.75% offer is wholly inadequate, and with inflation high and rising, it represents another real terms pay cut for workers who have seen a quarter of the value of their pay wiped out since 2010.”

In February the three unions submitted a pay claim of at least 10% for all council and school support employees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This would have ensured pay for the lowest paid workers went above £10 per hour, more than the real living wage of £9.50 per hour (outside London).

The unions say many local authorities had already budgeted for a larger pay increase than the one on offer, and that extra money from the government should be used to provide a decent rise.

Three things you can do:

Ask your friends at work who are not in UNISON to join the union.

Make sure we have your up to date contact details (job title, workplace, address, email)

Be ready to vote for strike action when the ballot papers are sent out in November

↑**4.8% Inflation**

↑**1.25% National Insurance**

1.75% Pay offer = Another real terms cut

Rochdale Climate Strike Protest Friday 5th November

As part of the protests for Climate Justice to coincide with the COP26 summit in Glasgow there will be climate strikes across the UK. Rochdale UNISON will be supporting this day of action and we would encourage our members to join us for a lunchtime protest.

Meet at 12.30 at Memorial Gardens opposite Rochdale Town Hall.

Join the Manchester Trade Union & Workers' Bloc on the COP26 Global Day of Action Demonstration for Climate Justice 6th Nov 2021

Trade unionists and workers from across the North West are invited to march with the trade union bloc on the Manchester COP26 Global Day of Action Demonstration for Climate Justice. Bring your union flags, banners, balloons etc. Bring your marching band. Wear your uniform or bring t-shirts that say what job you do. It's vital we show that the working majority are demanding climate justice and a worker-led just transition from fossil fuels.

Saturday 6 November at 11.30am, marching to join the start of the main demonstration at 12pm Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, M60 1AY.

Look for the "Workers of the world unite! [#SystemChangeNotClimateChange](#)" banner.

Once we join the main demo in St Peter's Square we'll aim to gather near the Princess St / Mosley St end.

GET INVOLVED:

- * Sign up for updates via <https://actionnetwork.org/events/cop26-manc-union-bloc/>
- * Download a poster/flyer: <https://drive.google.com/.../1bhmsso3tufGKQrJ.../view...>
- * Facebook event for the main demo: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1025938184909751/>

Please check that your UNISON colleagues have received this newsletter electronically—if not please ask them to contact the branch on 01706 925952 or email.unison@rochdale.gov.uk so we can update their membership record