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New Pay Claim for 2023

Three local government unions, representing 1.4 million council and school employees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, have submitted a pay claim that calls for an above-inflation wage rise.

UNISON, GMB and Unite say a significant pay award is vital after years of local authority spending cuts and pay restraint.

The claim, which would apply from the start of April, is for council employees to receive a wage rise of 12.7%.

Council employees – including refuse collectors, librarians, teaching assistants, care workers, cleaners and catering staff – deserve better pay and working conditions for providing vital community services, say the unions.

In their submission to employers today, the unions point out that staff working in local government have seen 25% wiped from the value of their pay since 2010.

A wage rise exceeding inflation is the only way to recruit and retain staff, at a time when local authorities are struggling to sustain the workforce needed to deliver services to the public.

Unless councils and schools pay competitive rates, workers will find better-paid, less-stressful work elsewhere, the unions say.

Staff have also faced increased workloads because of austerity cuts and their finances have been stretched to the limit by the cost-of-living crisis.

Council and school workers are often in low-paid roles, earning little more than the minimum wage, which has a devastating effect on their household budgets.

UNISON head of local government Mike Short said: "Council and school workers provide invaluable services. They keep communities safe, educate future generations and look after the most vulnerable.

"But councils can't function without staff. Many workers are struggling to make ends meet and unless they're paid properly, more will quit for better paid work elsewhere.

Reminder Rochdale UNISON AGM - Have you registered?

Rochdale UNISON's annual general meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st March & Thursday 2nd March 2023. The meeting is open to all members. Andrea Egan the President of UNISON will be speaking at the meeting at St Andrew's Church.

Please contact the branch on 01706 925951 / 52 or unison@rochdale.gov.uk to register your place at one of the meetings. The meetings are going to be held over 4 sessions on either 1st or 2nd March 2023 (you only need to attend one meeting but you are welcome to attend more than one if you want to). The Annual General Meeting will elect your Branch Officers, Auditors, and Representatives and ratify the election of Workplace Stewards for the forthcoming year. Elections will also be made for National and Local Government Conference 2023.

The dates of the AGM are:

There will be 4 physical meetings available.

1st March – 1.00pm - @ St Andrew's Church (next to Rochdale Leisure Centre) Entwisle Rd

1st March – 5.30pm @ Middleton Cricket Club, Towncroft Avenue

2nd March - 6.30am @ Green Lane Heywood

2nd March - 7.00am @ Green Lane Heywood

There for You- Financial Assistance from UNISON

You may have financial difficulties for all sorts of unexpected reasons, such as:

- Loss of income;
- Relationship breakdown;
- Bereavement;
- Suffering from a long illness;
- Needing to buy equipment because of a disability;
- Caring for someone with special needs or an illness.

What we can help with

There for You is proud to support thousands of members and their families every year with things such as:

- general living costs
- household appliances
- urgent repairs
- disability equipment and adaptations
- utility bills
- funeral costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for financial assistance, you must have been a member of UNISON for at least four weeks and up-to-date with your subscriptions. Also, that the financial difficulties that led you to apply occurred after you joined. Partners or dependants can also apply.

To apply, please download an application form, fill it out and return it to us along with scans, screenshots or photos of your supporting paperwork.

[Download application form](#)

If you have difficulty completing the form, email us at thereforyou@unison.co.uk or call 020 7121 5620 and leave a message with your contact details. We will be in touch as soon as possible to help you through the process.

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