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UNISON members vote to accept employers pay offer for Local Government

UNISON members have voted to accept the employers pay offer of a £1925 pay increase for Local Government workers in an indicative ballot. UNITE and GMB will be announcing the outcome of their ballots soon. Once all three unions have their results they will meet to agree a joint position. Any increase in pay will be backdated to April 2022.

UNISON Welfare's Energy Support Fund

UNISON Welfare's Energy Support Fund is a one-off non repayable grant of £200 for members struggling with their energy bills.

You must meet the following criteria:

- Must not have received a main grant since March 2022
- Must have 4 weeks of membership at the launch of the grant phase and up to date membership
- Must not have more than £1,000 in savings or rolling bank balance
- Must not have received more than £750 in total if applying within first year of membership
- Net household income of no more than £18,200/year (single, no children) or £26,000/year (couples and families)

OR

In receipt of means-tested benefits

The fund will open again on 16th November.

For more details visit: <https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/energy-support-fund-2/>

UNISON membership benefits

There are a variety of benefits that you are entitled to as a UNISON member. Following a discussion at Rochdale UNISON's branch committee we agreed to publicise some that are perhaps not so well known. If you are in financial difficulty you can contact the branch 01706925952 or if you prefer UNISON's helpline 0800 0 857 857

UNISON welfare assistance

Any member of UNISON or their dependants may apply. Assistance may be given in a variety of ways that may include: Direct financial assistance through emergency grants and grants to relieve distress; Help to recuperate after illness and family holidays; Help where there are other special needs; Advice on a range of issues and other sources of help.

Grants for education or training (i) To be considered for a grant by the National Executive Council itself, or by a sub committee or other body of the union appointed for the purpose by the National Executive Council. (ii) To receive any grant that the National Executive Council or other appointed body considers in its absolute discretion it is appropriate to award. Qualification (i) Membership for at least 4 weeks prior to the member applying for the grant concerned. (ii) No arrears of subscriptions (i) The member continues to pay all membership subscriptions required from her/him by these rules throughout the time that he/she is in education or training supported by the grant, unless the National Executive Council dispenses with this requirement in her or his case. (ii) The grant is for a course of study or training which the National Executive Council reasonably considers may have some relevance to trade unionism and be of benefit to the member and the union.

Accident benefit The accident must happen in the course of the member's employment, or whilst travelling to or from work or upon Union business. Qualification: Membership for at least 4 weeks prior to suffering the accident on which the claim is based. £5.50 per day, £38.50 per week maximum during the whole period in which the member is unable to work by reason of the accident up to a maximum of 30 days or £165.00 in any calendar year.

Fatal Accident benefit Qualification: Membership for at least 4 weeks prior to suffering the accident on which the claim is based. Conditions (i) The fatal accident must happen in the course of the member's employment, or whilst travelling to or from work or upon Union business. (ii) The member must be survived by a partner, or at least one dependant. (iii) Only one sum shall be paid: if more than one person is entitled under the Rule, the sum shall be paid to the surviving partner; or if there is no surviving partner, to the dependant or dependants of the deceased in equal shares. Entitlement is based on completed years of continued membership
Under 5 years £2,913.00
Over 5 and less than 15 £5,827.50
Over 15 and less than 25 £8,740.50
Over 25 £11,653.50

Death benefit Conditions (i) The death must occur whilst the member is in full membership. (ii) The death benefit must be claimed within 12 months of the death by the personal representative of the deceased. (iii) The benefit will be paid to the partner of the deceased; if no surviving partner, to any dependant or dependants of the deceased in equal shares; if none, to the estate of the deceased. Qualification (i) Membership for at least 4 weeks prior to death (ii) No arrears of contribution. Completed years of continued membership
Under 5 years £166.50
Over 5 and less than 15 £332.00
Over 15 and less than 25 £493.50
Over 25 £664.00

Calling retired members

Are you a retired member of UNISON or do you know a UNISON retired member who might be interested in being an active member of the branch? Rochdale UNISON retired members like many people were having been finding it difficult to meet during the pandemic but will be meeting again on a monthly basis. Please contact the branch on 01706925952 if you would like to come to the meetings.

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](mailto:email.unison@rochdale.gov.uk) so we can update their membership record