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Unions Submit Pay Claim

Local government unions representing 1.4m council and school employees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are demanding a decent wage rise.

UNISON, GMB and Unite say a substantial award is essential as staff continue to struggle with rising living costs, having missed out on the higher wage settlements paid out to workers in other parts of the public sector in the past year.

This year's joint union pay claim, which would apply from this April, is for all council employees to receive a wage rise of £3,000.

In the 2025/26 pay claim, the unions also call for a minimum hourly rate of £15, an extra day of annual leave, a reduction of two hours in the working week and for school staff to have the right to take at least one day of leave within term time.

Council employees – including refuse collectors, librarians, teaching assistants, care workers, cleaners and catering staff – must be rewarded for the vital local services we provide.

Otherwise, councils and schools risk an exodus of public servants to private sector employers offering higher wages, lower workloads and better perks.

Council staff have seen 25% wiped from the value of their pay since 2010.

More than 900,000 jobs have also been lost across local government over the same period, with cuts disproportionately affecting women.

NEC Elections 2025: Who are the Rochdale Local Government branch backing?

UNISON's National Executive Council runs our union and determines the kind of union we are and can become. It is made up of 68 UNISON members just like you! NEC elections this year are hugely important to determine whether UNISON succeeds and **wins for you at work and on pay.**

How the election works

Voting will be from 21 April to 21 May. Lookout for your ballot paper which will be posted to your home address.

You can vote in all the regional seats and all the national Black and disabled member seats, regardless of your own ethnicity or whether you consider yourself disabled or not.

You will only be able to vote for the service group candidates for the service group you are a member of e.g. Local government only. And members only get a vote in the Young Member seats if you are under 30 years old.

Members are strongly encouraged to use all the votes available to them.

UNISON, like any organisation, needs to change and adapt to new conditions if it is to succeed. Your branch believes that the candidates we nominated will continue to see through the kind of changes we need in UNISON and will deliver on their promises.

UNISON must be a member-led union – this means that elected members should run our union, not appointed full-time officials. Elected members must be the real leaders.

We need to be an organising, not a servicing, union – we cannot solve all of our members' problems on a one-by-one basis. Members will always need individual support, but the focus should be on collective action.

The pay crisis – UNISON must end the scourge of low pay. We need to deliver on national pay negotiations. We cannot simply approach pay negotiations the way that UNISON's leadership has done in the past.

UNISON should play a positive but challenging role with the Labour Government. We should promote UNISON policy on public services, and not accept austerity as inevitable from any government.

We must review UNISON's main legal services contract and particularly the difficulties branches have accessing timely employment law advice.

That's why your branch is backing these candidates, in the table below.

Take part in UNISON's NEC elections. It's your union, so have your say in how it's run!

Danielle Vipond North West - General	Tony Wilson North West - General	Christine Collins North West - Female	Elaine Jones North West - Female
Christophine Obigwe North West - Reserved	Andrea Egan Local Government - Female	Jane Doolan Local Government- Female	David Jones Local Government - General
Jenny Black Local Government - General	Amerit Rait Black Members - Male	Antonia Bright Black Members - Female	Julia Mwaluke Black Members - Reserved
April Ashley Black Members- Female	Tara Thomas Disabled Members - General	Ellie Waple Disabled Members - Female	Kameron Spence Young Members - General
Natasha Bednall Young Members - Female			

Rochdale UNISON LGBT+ self organised group

Rochdale UNISON are holding our first LGBT+ meeting on Wednesday 2nd April at 12.30 on Floor One at Number One Riverside.

If you are an LGBT+ UNISON member you are welcome to join us.

Rochdale Branch AGM



Thanks to everyone who attended the annual general meeting. It was great to hear from UNISON's president Steve North about his time as President and the progress UNISON members are making.

Rochdale's Branch Officers for this year are:

Branch Secretary	Jonathan Harding
Assistant Branch Secretary	Christine Bonsall
Assistant Branch Secretary	Paul White
Branch Chair	Christine Bonsall
Deputy Chair	Paul White
Treasurer	Sue Cartledge
Communications Officer	Sam O'Brien
Young Members Officer	Fenn Horan
Branch Auditor	Jeanette Hart
Branch Auditor	Debbie Gunner
Voluntary Sector Officer	Andrew Wastling
Sports & Social Officer	Pasquale Iannidinardi
Women's Officer	Belinda Thomas