

ACTION LOOMS ON PAY

Our real wages are worth 18% less than in 2009/10. If you're on £20,000 you've lost £3,600 a year; on £30,000, you've lost £5,400.

The Local Government Employers now say they won't make an offer until May and it will be pegged to an overall increase of just 1%. With inflation running at 2% plus, this will be a further pay cut we can't afford. Transport, housing and energy costs are shooting up.

In response UNISON, GMB and UNITE have said industrial action looks inevitable. National consultative ballots will take place in April.

Pay History

UNISON, with the other council unions, put in a flat rate claim for a £1.20 an hour pay increase from 1 April 2014. This amounts to around £2,200 a year for a full-time employee. Crucially, it would raise the hourly rate for some 500,000 local government workers up to the Living Wage (£7.65 outside London, £8.80 in London).

Back in October 1999 the National Minimum Wage was £3.60 an hour. The lowest council pay rate was 24.2% higher at £4.47. In 2013 the difference was just 2.2% (14p): £6.31 v £6.45 an hour.

The claim is affordable. Overall local authority reserves have increased from £2.6 billion to £19 billion. 55% of the cost of the £1.20 an hour claim would pay for itself through increased tax and national insurance contributions.

Most economists say that real wages have to rise if an economic recovery is to be sustained. A recovery based on a house price bubble will burst.

WANTED
A DECENT PAY RISE IN 2014!

Inequality has never been greater

Ordinary people are feeling skint. Most are economising; some are going without. Those with savings are running them down. Others have resorted to pay day loan companies or been forced to use food banks - even in Camden.

Cuts in real pay haven't saved jobs. Nationally, 360,000 local government jobs have been axed since 2010. In Camden we have seen more than 900 jobs go and nearly 700 made redundant (more than half were compulsory).

The Eton boys running the government are slashing council budgets and don't care whether jobs and services are destroyed, and public service workers reduced to poverty pay. Their banker friends in the city expect a bonus pool of £80 billion this year. The richest 1% have never felt better off, with tax cuts for those on £150,000 and more. Meanwhile working class Londoners have been priced out of the capital.

Vote on pay at the AGM 6 March

Vote on the motion on pay at the Camden UNISON Annual General Meeting. John McLoughlin (member of UNISON's National Local Government Committee) will be speaking on the pay claim and the latest developments.

CAMDEN UNISON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
3.30 pm Thursday 6 March
Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall
Judd Street, WC1H 9JE

Paid time off including reasonable travel time is agreed for all UNISON members employed by Camden.

If you are not already in UNISON, join us today.

Ask your local steward for a form or go to

www.camdenunison.org.uk

Join now and you will be balloted

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