



P/5/14
10 March 2014

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY IS NOT ENOUGH AND IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION

While pleading poverty, Councils have squirrelled away £2.6 billion in reserves in the last year alone!

Did you know that -

- Local government is the lowest paid in the whole public sector
- Since 2010 local government pay has fallen 18% behind the cost of living
- Over 500,000 local government staff earn less than the Living Wage
- The local government pay bill has fallen by 23% in the last two years
- There have been 440,000 job losses and the people left have had to pick up more work as a result.

The facts speak for themselves. Everyone working in schools and local authorities have a clear, justified case for a decent pay rise and the trade union claim for £1 an hour increase is fair and affordable.

But the employers have said they will only put a 1% pot on the table and they want to take some of that to meet their statutory obligation to pay the National Minimum Wage - incidentally, isn't it appalling that councils have let pay slip so badly that we have public servants on the minimum wage? The net result would be that the pay offer for 2014 would be less than 1%.

Unless we do something about it.

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First, we have to say loud and clear that this is totally unacceptable.

Then, we have to show that we are prepared to take action.

This is a difficult course. Nobody wants to take action that will put their service users or the children they support to any inconvenience. But if we don't act we will be consigning hundreds of thousands of school and council staff to low pay for years to come. And unless staff are treated fairly the long term consequences for those very services will be worse.

There are two simple things you can do to help and they will only take a few minutes of your time. One is to complete our short survey to say what you think about the pay situation. You can do this online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GMBLocalGovPay2014>, or by using the form attached to this bulletin. The other is to talk to your work colleagues who may not be union members and explain why pay is an issue that everyone should be working together on. If you want to have more information about helping other colleagues join GMB please let me know using localgovpay@gmb.org.uk

These simple steps will make a big difference. Please take them to support GMBs campaign to get you a fair pay settlement for 2014.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton
National Secretary - Public Services Section

Join GMB at www.gmb.org.uk/join



GMB PAY SURVEY

The trade union claim for local government pay 2014 is for a £1 an hour pay rise. The employers have told us that they will offer 1% minus their costs of paying the National Minimum Wage.

Do you think the employers' position is unacceptable? YES

NO

Would you be prepared to support industrial action? YES

NO

Would you be willing to share GMB information with other work colleagues? If so please give your email address or telephone number below -

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Please return this form to -

Craig Jones at the Pontypridd Office or via e-mail



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