

Makes a Difference

NEWS FROM ROCHDALE UNISON

APRIL 2008

2008/9 Pay Claim

UNISON's National negotiators met on the 28th November 2007 to discuss the Local Government pay claim for 2008/9. It was ironic that whilst this was happening, most employees had still not received their 2007/8 pay rise and back pay.

UNISON are now faced with a National employers body that is controlled by Conservatives that is asking for more flexibility within the Local Government workforce and a Labour Government which has announced a 2% average public sector pay increase for the next 3 years. The offer put forward by the Unions on behalf of Local Government Employees was...

A one year pay increase on all pay points of 6% or 50 pence per hour, whichever is the greater, with a view to making progress to a bottom rate of £6.75.

This was part of the argument put forward by UNISON Catch Up & Match Up.

The unions reasoning behind this campaign was to highlight the fact that for the last 4 years Local Government Employees pay has increased below inflation and that the Governments use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not reflect the real life situations of our members as this does not include Housing Cost and Council Tax.

As most of our members either pay rent or a mortgage and all have to pay council tax this seems a bit unfair especially as the figures show the extent of the inflation over the period 2004 to 2007.



Inflation Rates 2004/7

All items	12.5%
Fuel and Light	49.2%
Housing	29.6%
Fares/Travel	15.2%
Food	10.6%
Motoring Cost	3.5%
Clothing	4.4%
Consumer Durables	5.9%
(Washing Machines, Fridges, Televisions etc)	

Using the Retail Price Index (RPI) which coincidentally is used in the private sector is a fairer way of assessing inflation as it includes these items and therefore this was why the private sector saw an average increase in Private Sector Employees wages of 3.9%.

Employers Make Initial Offer

The Local Government Employers made an initial offer at a meeting of the National Joint Council (NJC) Executive held on 19th March which was...

2.2% on all pay points from 1/4/08

The NJC will seek to complete the review of the Green Book agreed as part of the 2007 settlement by 31/12/08.

The NJC will seek to complete negotiations on the pay settlements for 1/4/09 and 1/4/10 by 31/12/08.

The trade unions side was unanimous in condemning the offer which attaches strings to a basic pay offer below even the current CPI inflation rate of 2.5%.

On the 2nd April the NJC Executive held a second meeting whereby the Local Government Employers made an improved and final offer.

2.45% on all scale points on the national pay spine, giving a rate of £6.55 on scale point 7, the first point to which the 2.45% applies. An additional £100 on scale points 4,5 and 6 giving an increase of 3.3% and pay rates of £6.20, £6.28 and £6.37 per hour.

The NJC will seek to conclude the review of the National Agreement (Green Book) agreed as part of the 2007 settlement.

The NJC will seek to agree by 31/12/08 the pay settlements for 2009 and 2010.