



**MOTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY TO CHORLEY LABOUR GROUP:
A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL
WORKERS**

This Council Notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they received from central government. Councils across England, Wales and Scotland are facing a collective funding shortfall of £3bn by the financial year 2023/24.

Councils led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials.



Note from Local Unison Branch Secretary Lesley Miller:

In a time of a cost-of-living crisis, the bottom line is everything, so with local government workers' pay being restrained this has a disproportionate impact on the lower-paid workers in local government. We have an increase in worker poverty and face issues recruiting to council roles. This leaves those left in public service doing the work of 3 or 4 people on ever-diminishing salaries. More workers are leaving public sector roles, and those remaining are under immense pressure to continue to deliver the services our local communities need.

Chorley Council is a good employer but has been forced to reduce staff numbers to balance the books. Whilst Unison works hard with the employer to support staff that remain and look at new innovative ways of attracting new employees, the light at the end of the tunnel for those on the ground is very dim.

Better central government funding would make all the difference. We could improve wages for those hard-working staff, ensuring higher retention rates and attract more people to public service work. We don't want to continue to lose more people to the lure of higher pay and lower responsibility jobs in the private sector, but this is what is happening because we can't afford to pay people their worth.



This Council believes:

1. Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
2. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
3. Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Council resolves to:

- A. Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, Unite & GMB on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%
- B. Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- C. Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- D. Write to NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- E. Encourage all local government workers to join a union.