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JOINT NEGOTIATING AGENDA

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2017 AT 6.30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 1 - THE FORUM

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

MEMBERS:

Councillors Brown, Herbert Chapman, Taylor, Whitman and C Wyatt-Lowe

TRADE UNION:

Nalin Cook and Matthew Nix

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence

2. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

3. MATTERS ARISING

To discuss any matters arising from the previous meeting

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

A verbal update will be given at the meeting

5. HR

A verbal update will be given at the meeting

6. UNION (Page 2)

8. ADDITIONAL PAPERS

Public Sector Pay Cap

We are writing to you following the recent General Election campaign and against the backdrop of what is now a well overdue debate on the future of public sector pay.

UNISON is the biggest public sector Union in the UK representing 1.3m members. We represent members throughout the public sector as well as those working for private sector employers who are commissioned to deliver public services.

There is a growing concern among UNISON members about a further squeeze on living standards this year as rising inflation outpaces incomes. Inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index Housing (CPIH) was 2.7% in June, up from 0.8% in June 2016. Inflation measured by the Retail Prices Index (RPI), the measure of inflation in the economy as a whole and the traditional yardstick for pay determination, has risen to 3.7%.

Since 2010 public sector pay has diminished in value, after pay freezes in 2011 and 2012, and a one percent annual growth cap ever since, our members are now left questioning how will they manage their finances to meet the rising costs of living.

You simply cannot reduce public sector pay in relative terms indefinitely without devastating consequences for workers in the sector. Especially when, over the same period, pay in the private sector has improved, percentage annual increases are now running at 2.1%, more than twice the rate of public sector increases.

Even if you are not with us on the moral and political arguments over public sector pay, we would invite you to agree that further depression of public sector pay creates more difficulty in attracting and retaining staff, this applies across all grades in all sectors, including those not covered by pay review bodies, like our members who work in Local Government.

Quality public services require high skilled individuals who are motivated and feel valued for the contributions that they make.

Our members increasingly know that the public sector pay cap is not an economic inevitability but a political choice. They now look to the Government to recognise the strength of their feeling and to appreciate the support they now enjoy with the wider public. If there was ever a time to change priorities that time has now arrived.

I know you understand that our members provide the services that hold our communities together, help to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens, they are the professionals who intervene when things go wrong, and as we have seen of late, they are always with us in times of emergency.

On behalf of our public sector workers who both live and work in Hemel Hempstead we are asking you to support lifting the public sector pay cap, to give public sector workers a fair pay rise, one they so rightly deserve.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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