

Pay Edition - Issue 4 - June 2008

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**YOU DESERVE A FAIR DEAL - VOTE FOR ONE! SCOTLAND'S  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOINT PAY CAMPAIGN**

The Pay Campaign Group (PCG) has been established by all three unions (UNISON, GMB & UNITE (T&G)) to plan and co-ordinate our pay campaign. This is the first time in many years that the three SJC trade unions are united in rejecting the employers offer on pay- giving us the opportunity to campaign jointly wherever possible.

While this on its own sends out a powerful message to the employers, it is essential that we build on this by engaging our members and activists in support of our claim and the campaign.

Members in all three trade unions are being balloted during July on industrial action in pursuance of an improved offer. We need to use the time before then to get the message out to all TU members of the need for a strong 'YES' vote in these ballots.

To assist branches and stewards in building our campaign towards the start of the ballot and through the ballot period the PCG agree to issue;

- **w/c 2 June - national press releases to keep the pressure on the employers**
- **w/c 9 June - members bulletin highlighting the increased cost of living**
- **w/c 16 June - local press releases for use by branches**
- **w/c 23 June - members bulletin highlighting low pay. A further member's bulletin urging members to vote 'YES'.**

Posters urging members to vote 'YES' to strike action will also be available to branches, and further branch/stewards briefing will ensure you are kept up to date with any developments.

**YOU DESERVE A FAIR DEAL -**

**VOTE FOR ONE!**

## Local Government

### Committee Chair on Pay

Stephanie Herd, Chair of the Scottish Local Government Committee said: "Local government workers and UNISON members pay awards have been below the rate of inflation since 2005".

"Our members cannot afford another 3 year pay cut as the final offer from the employers is exactly that".

"You just have to look at your till receipts to see the rising cost of living. We are looking for a decent pay rise and we need a decent offer from the employers to offset that".

"The employers are refusing to even consider a decent pay award to try and deal with the issue of low pay in local government".

"I believe that the national negotiators have pushed the employers as far as possible. The only way they will chance their minds is if we can get a 'YES' vote.

"I am delighted that the GMB and UNITE (T&G) are also involved with this campaign".

"Vote **YES** and say no to low pay!"

## The Ballot Period and Key Dates

The ballot period will take place in July and the type of action that is being proposed is:

- **A one day all out strike across all of Scotland**
- **A national rolling programme of selective action**
- **Further days of action if required**

The key dates for the ballot timetable are:

- **20 June 08 Dispatch letter of intent to ballot**
- **1 July 08 Ballot opens**
- **31 July 08 Ballot closes**
- **1 August 08 Notification of result**
- **18 August 08 First possible date of action**

### SELECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

Branches should now start to identify occupational groups of members who would be prepared to take selective action. Each trade union will advise their branches separately on this.

Branches should also arrange joint union meetings locally to discuss tactics and joint campaigning, they should also encourage joint workplace and where appropriate, mass settings.

Every branch and every member needs to work hard to deliver a 'YES' vote and give us a clear mandate for strike action.

### CAMPAIGN PACK

At the recent Local Government Conference on Pay, a campaign pack was launched. The campaign pack consists of: a briefing for stewards; model press release; model letter to elected members and MSPs, political lobbying guide and a guide to 'red circling'. This guide will be sent to all of our branches. Further copies can be downloaded at:

<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/localgovt/pay2008/index.html>

**Message from the Local Government Committee Secretary and SJC Secretary**

In what has been an extremely busy period for all Local Government activists, since the last edition of L.G Update, with a number of key issues for the Local Government Service Group happening.

The next edition of L G Update will focus on the issues within local government, but we felt that this issue should focus on the pay campaign.

This year your pay matters more than ever. Why?

Mortgages and rents are increasing; fuel bills are increasing; food prices are on the rise. That's why pay is important.

The employers says you must get 2.5% for the next three years, but inflation is over 4%. At a time when pay rises in the private sector are running near 4% the employers are asking you to take a pay cut and accept half the going rate.

We say 'No'. You deserve a fair deal for improving public services and making a real difference to local communities. We want to make sure our members are respected and rewarded with fair pay.

*Tracey Dalling & Dougie Black*

**YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Your current Scottish Local Government Committee members for 2008/09 are:

<b>Chair:</b> Stephnie Herd	North Ayrshire
<b>Vice chair:</b> Bob Revie	Aberdeenshire
<b>Vice chair:</b> Marion Stewart	Dumfries & Galloway
Scott Donohoe	City of Glasgow
Jim Burnett	East Dunbartonshire
Munro Ross	Highland
Arthur Donnachie	Inverclyde
Mark Ferguson	Renfrewshire
Denise McLafferty	West Dunbartonshire
Karen Donnelly	Aberdeen City
Irene Stout	City of Edinburgh
Carol Ball	City of Glasgow
Pam Robertson	Clackmannanshire
Sandra Kennie	East Lothian
Lynne Rankin	East Renfrewshire
Joan Paterson	Clackmannanshire
Barbara Fulton	East Renfrewshire
Stephen Smellie	South Lanarkshire

**BRANCH PAIRING**

To assist branches with campaigning on Pay, the Scottish Local Government Committee has agreed to a branch pairing system. Your paired committee member should have already contacted you to make arrangements to meet with your branch to assist with campaigning. The following members are paired with:

Bob Revie	Moray
Scott Donohoe	Shetland
Jim Burnett	Fife
Munro Ross	Western Isles
Arthur Donnachie	Argyll & Bute
Denise McClafferty	Perth & Kinross
Mark Ferguson	Angus
Stephen Smellie	North Lanarkshire
Karen Donnelly	Dundee City
Irene Stout	West Lothian
Carol Ball	Orkney
Pam Robertson	Stirling
Marion Stewart	Scottish Borders
Sandra Kennie	Mid Lothian
Lynne Rankin	East Ayrshire
Joan Paterson	Falkirk
Barbara Fulton	South Ayrshire

Stephanie Herd will have an overview of the branches.

**We need your help!**

At the recent Local Government Conference on Pay, the campaign pack was launched.

It was agreed by the committee and the conference to add 'case studies' to the pack.

These 'case studies' will assist branches during the campaign.

Please forward your 'case studies' to Kevin O'Neil at: [k.oneil@unison.co.uk](mailto:k.oneil@unison.co.uk)

If you need assistance with this, then call Kevin on: 0131 226 0068

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

Over the coming weeks, the following full time officers will be available to assist with the pay campaign.

Dougie Black	Regional Organiser	<a href="mailto:d.black@unison.co.uk">d.black@unison.co.uk</a>
Tracey Dalling	Regional Organiser	<a href="mailto:t.dalling@unison.co.uk">t.dalling@unison.co.uk</a>
Kevin O'Neil	Area Organiser	<a href="mailto:k.oneil@unison.co.uk">k.oneil@unison.co.uk</a>

Campaigning leaflets highlighting the cost of living and low pay will be sent directly to branches over the coming weeks. A leaflet and poster highlighting the '**VOTE NOW VOTE YES FOR ACTION!**' message will also be available for branches very soon.

All off these materials, along with the campaign pack and a PowerPoint for stewards, will also be available for branches to download from the UNISON Scotland website at:

<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/localgovt/index.html>

Contact Dougie, Tracey or Kevin for further details.

**And Finally! - Dates for you diary.****LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRS MEETING:**

Monday 17 November 2008 11:00am venue to be confirmed

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE:**

Tuesday 28 October 2008 1:30pm venue to be confirmed

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORKING MEETINGS:**

Friday 5 September 2008 11:00am venue to be confirmed

Friday 5 December 2008 11:00am venue to be confirmed

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE:**

Friday 5 September 2008 1:30pm venue to be confirmed

Friday 5 December 2008 1:30pm venue to be confirmed

If you have any comments about or require any further information regarding any of the issues raised in this publication please contact: Kevin O'Neil, Area Organiser – [k.oneil@unison.co.uk](mailto:k.oneil@unison.co.uk) or 0131 226 0068