Scottish council workers are voting on strike action to win fair pay and a Living Wage increase every year.

www.unison-scotland.org.uk/localgovt/pay2013

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Scottish council workers are voting on strike action to win Fair Pay and a Living Wage increase each year. Members voted in April to reject the 2013/14 final offer from the Scottish Joint Council employers. The employers have said no to reopening talks.

UNISON will now ballot all members entitled to vote.

Members are asked to vote Yes if they are prepared to take strike action. The proposal is for a minimum of 3 days of strike action over a 7 week period. First, a one day Scottish wide strike. Next, a rolling programme of one day strikes in different areas. Then, a further Scottish wide strike.

Ballot papers will be posted to home addresses. The ballot runs from 3 July to 13 August.

The rejected offer was for:
- A 1% increase on all spinal column points from 1 April 2013
- Introduction of a Scottish Local Government Living Wage of £7.50 per hour (to be applied after the 1% rise). But no commitment to increase this every year.

UNISON believes 1% is simply not enough. It follows 0.65% in 2010, then two years of pay freeze. In that period the value of our pay has fallen by nearly 13%, while essentials like food and heating costs have risen sharply. Yet the richest have never been as wealthy.

UNISON is asking for a Fair Pay rise and a promise to increase the Living Wage annually. The 1% pay offer is not fair reward to hard working staff who continue to deliver quality public services despite being overstretched and underpaid. Local government workers have not had the £250 payment to those earning under £21,000 that NHS and civil service staff received in the last two years.

Fair Pay Campaign 2013: For more information contact your local branch or visit www.unison-scotland.org.uk/localgovt/pay2013