

16th August 2023

Naomi Cooke
Employers' Side Secretary
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

Dear Naomi

We're writing as the three NJC trade unions to urge the Employers' Side to return to the negotiating table with an improved pay offer for 2023.

Since the last formal meeting of the NJC Executive, the plight of our members in local government has not changed. While headline inflation figures fluctuate, food inflation remains extremely high, and energy prices are increasingly unsustainable for workers in councils and schools. The cost-of-living crisis continues unabated, and this cannot continue.

In UNISON's recent industrial action ballot, three-quarters of those balloted voted in favour of strike action, with the highest national turnout of UNISON members in local government to date.

In Unite's recent industrial action ballot, the requirements for industrial action were passed in 23 employers, and Unite members are now preparing to announce industrial action across regions in England and Wales. Unite is also re-balloting in certain councils, where action is strongly supported by reps and members.

GMB has announced it will be conducting an industrial action ballot of members in over 2,000 employers in September and October, asking members to vote for strike action.

The unions remain committed to reaching a negotiated settlement and call on the Employers' Side to re-consider its position and return to the table with an improved offer.

We can then work together on the pay spine review which we all agree is much needed, as well as making a timely start to the negotiation process for 2024 pay.

We look forward to hearing from you.

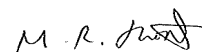
Yours sincerely,



Sharon Wilde GMB



Clare Keogh UNITE



Mike Short UNISON

Trade Union Side Secretaries