## **Phoenix**

A Sandwell UNISON Newsletter – May 2023



# Vote

## In Your Pay Ballot

The 2023/24 NJC pay offer for council workers and school support staff.

A below inflation pay offer of £1,925 (pro rata for parttime staff) or 3.88% on all pay points will be voted on by almost 400,000 UNISON members. The ballot begins on 23 May. If you don't receive your ballot paper at home in May, get in touch with UNISON to let us know.

Whether you want to accept the offer or vote for industrial action to fight for better pay, we urge all members to vote and return your ballot papers in the post ASAP. Your vote should arrive in a red envelope.

This is your pay, and your vote determines the response for your trade union.

The ballot is disaggregated for each employer making every vote count in your employer.

For your union to do anything to achieve better pay it is vital that more than 50% of members actually vote.

#### RPI inflation for March 2023 was 13.5%.

If you don't want to keep receiving below inflation pay awards year after year, we all need to say enough is enough and stand up for ourselves collectively.

Any colleagues not in a union cannot fight for better pay, so ask them to join. The bigger we are, the stronger we are. We can win better pay.

## NHS Strikes Win Better Pay

Not every NHS nurse, auxiliary worker or ambulance worker took strike action. However, enough did and were determined to continue to do so until they got a better pay offer.

The strike action by some NHS workers not only forced the government into reopening discussions on the 2022 pay award they imposed. The action also forced the government to offer more pay for both 2022 (at least £1,655 more on top of the minimum £1,400 already imposed) and more than was recommended for 2023. The strikes won better pay.

## The Government Can Afford More

In this year's Budget the government handed those already wealthy enough to have over £1million in their pension pot a tax giveaway worth over £1Billion.

The Tories still refuse to tax foreign nationals who live in Britain at the same rate. Taxing those with 'non-dom' status would raise £3Billion each year.

When it came to the pandemic or bailing out the banks – money was and is never a problem.

Paying public sector workers below inflation pay awards every year is a political choice made by this government.

Return Your Ballot Paper. Post it back!

### Did You Know?

The Government receives up to half (50%) of any pay award to public sector workers back in direct taxes, indirect taxes and reduced benefits. So, if the government makes a 10% pay award the net cost is just 5%.