

NJC 2024/25 Pay Offer Accepted

Sandwell's votes on whether to take strike action for a better NJC pay offer were as follows:-

- 86% of UNISON members at Sandwell Children's Trust voted to take strike action on a 37% turnout.
- 95% of UNISON members at Sandwell Leisure Trust voted to take strike action on a 43% turnout.
- 75% of UNISON members across Sandwell Council voted to take strike action on a 30% turnout.

Across England and Wales, the average vote was almost 80% for strike action on a 29% turnout.

Although the votes above are strong votes for strike action, they fail to meet the legal ballot threshold of 50% for any action to be called. Of the 4,093 employers balloted UNISON passed the 50% ballot threshold in 682. There were just 3 largish Council's where UNISON members voted for action passing the 50% threshold.

Considering the votes, UNISON's national NJC committee decided we had not passed the ballot thresholds with enough employers to create sufficient pressure to win a better pay deal and therefore voted reluctantly to accept the offer of £1,290 (full-time employees or pro rata for part time) on all pay points or 2.5% from pay point 43.

GMB did not conduct a formal ballot and Unite reached a similar conclusion based on their results too.

The impact of the pay offer by Sandwell's grades can be seen here [NJC-2024-25-pay-offer-by-Sandwell-Grades-1.pdf \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](#)

The award has been accepted in time for it to be paid in November's salary, including the back pay element from 1 April.

Therefore, your November's pay should see an additional sum of monies for both the rise in November itself and 7 months of that rise since 1 April.

Sandwell UNISON wishes all members a Merry Christmas!

West Midlands Pension Fund Delays Slammed

Retirees within the West Midlands Local Government pension scheme can wait 6 months before they receive their pension.

Reflecting the serious hardship such delays are causing; the Joint Trade Unions and Sandwell Council sent an unprecedented joint letter to the West Midlands Pension Fund. See the letter [Joint Trade Union/Sandwell Council letter to West Midlands Pension Fund – Sandwell General UNISON Branch.](#)

These unacceptable delays are due to a new computer system not working. This situation has been ongoing now for over 12 months and unfortunately there has been no sign of improvement.

If you are experiencing such issues, please get in touch. Also check out [Delays in Accessing your local government pension? – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](#)

Details of the reply can be found here [Reply from WM Pension Fund on delays – Sandwell General UNISON Branch](#) alongside a link to see Sandwell UNISON appear on BBC Midlands Today 19 minutes into [Politics Midlands - 29/09/2024 - BBC iPlayer](#)

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