

ULG/101/2007

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To: Secretaries of Local Government Branches in England, Wales
and Northern Ireland
(Scotland – for information)
Regional Heads of Local Government
Registered Professional/Sectional Bodies - for information

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NJC Pay Offer - Industrial Action Committee gives authorisation to ballot

The NEC's Industrial Action Committee met on 19 September and has given authorisation for an industrial action ballot over the employers' final offer of 2.475% plus £6 per hour (3.4%) on scale point 4. Branches now need to make urgent preparations for a ballot and campaign. A high turnout and a 'yes' vote to strike action are essential.

The NEC's Industrial Action Committee met on 19 September and gave authorisation for an industrial action ballot over the employers' final offer of 2.475% plus £6 per hour (3.4%) on scale point 4. The employers are linking the offer to a review of the Green Book and bargaining arrangements, with nothing ruled in and nothing ruled out. (The final offer is detailed in circular ULG/96/2007).

Branches now need to make urgent preparations for the ballot and campaign. It will be vital to get a high turnout in the ballot and a 'yes' vote to strike action will be essential if we are to move the employers to make an improved offer. The Industrial Action Committee has said that it intends to take the turnout and majority into account in approving/or not strike action.

The NJC Committee believes that only a campaign involving substantial and sustained industrial action, starting with a two-day strike, will achieve any improvement to the offer. The employers have already made it clear that they are sitting tight and will not be coming forward with improvements in response to the announcement of our ballot.

Campaign materials will be despatched in bulk and will be with branches by 28 September. Copies of the campaign poster, leaflet and sticker are attached to this circular. These will be stock items and branches will be able to order further supplies if

needed following the bulk despatch. If you want **extra** copies, please use the order form and stock number attached.

A campaign newsletter is also attached for branches to distribute to members.

What should branches do now?

Branches will need to work closely with Regions to organise for the ballot, achieve a 'yes' vote and mobilise for industrial action. You will also need to set up branch and workplace meetings, including in non-local authority workplaces.

The timetable for the ballot will mean that letters of intent to employers will be sent out from 26 September. The ballot papers will be despatched by post to individual members on 5 October. If there is a 'yes' vote and the Industrial Action Committee gives the green light to strike action, the first two days of action would take place between 14 and 20 November.

It is therefore vital that you now:

- Call branch and workplace meetings to tell members what is happening
- Urge all members to take part in the ballot and vote 'yes'
- Distribute campaign materials as soon as you get them and order more if you need them
- Recruit non-members to UNISON
- Ask your Regional NJC reps or Head Office officials to address meetings
- Tell your local press and media what is happening
- Volunteer to speak to the press and media and tell them how the offer affects you
- Work with your Region on the campaign and update them on members' responses

This will be a hard dispute to win. Only with a massive effort by every branch and Region will we persuade the employers that the offer is not good enough. Make sure you do your bit today!

Best wishes

Heather Wakefield
National Secretary
Local Government Service Group