

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT **pay** **NEWS** **BULLETIN**

**July 2010**

## **THE CURRENT POSITION ON NJC PAY**

### **What the Chancellor said in relation to public sector pay:**

*“A two year pay freeze will be introduced from 2011-12 for public sector workforces, except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250 a year. This will save £3.3 billion a year by 2014-15.”*

### **What the LGA have said in response:**

The LGA have made it clear that the Government’s position on public sector pay will not change their own ‘no offer’ position on NJC pay for 2010-11. The employers have stated that:

*“...we can confirm that the announcement does not affect:*

- *Local government pay for 2010-11, where the position remains that the employers have not offered an increase.*
- *Contractual annual increments, which should continue to be paid.*
- *Ahead of any negotiations on local government pay for 2011-12 we shall be consulting councils in the usual way through regional pay briefings.”*

This could mean that in addition to the pay freeze this year, local government employers do not feel bound to offer the minimal increase of £250 in the following two years.

## Pay FOI

In April this year, UNISON sent a Freedom of Information request to all 401 councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland asking them what assumptions they had made about the percentage increase in pay from April 2010. Of the 280 councils who responded:

- 59% said they assumed there *would* be a pay rise in 2010-11.
- The most frequent assumption was a 1% increase.
- Most councils have assumed there will be a 1% pay increase in their Medium Term Financial Plans for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The employers have claimed that the 'no offer' on pay was due to un-affordability. The FOI request has shown that there was in fact room to make an offer. Political choices, not finance, are the cause of the impasse over local government pay in 2010.

The NJC Committee is meeting on 7 July to consider the next steps in the campaign.