Dear MP / Councillor,

**Please support your workforce**

I am a UNISON member employed by Manchester City Council. As a resident, I really value the local services I get. That’s why I am asking you to support local government and school workers who are campaigning for an extra £1 an hour on their pay – more than the below inflation 1% that most of us have been offered by the Local Government Association.

The pay rise is much needed, especially for the very many low paid workers in local government.

We had a pay freeze from 2010 until 2013, followed by a 1% increase in 2013 when inflation was 2%. Now we have been offered another pay cut – 1%, while inflation is 2.5%. Our basic pay is the lowest in the public sector. It is frankly a disgrace that over 450,000 earn **less** than the Living Wage.

I believe that my fellow UNISON members deserve decent pay for the great job they do in our community. I know that funding is tight, but over half the cost of our fair pay claim would be paid for through increases in tax and national insurance and reduced cost of in-work benefits.

Please let me know what you are going to do to support local government workers and protect good public services.

Yours sincerely,