



Dave Prentis
General Secretary
Unison

9 October 2014

Dear Dave,

You will be acutely aware that Local Government Employers and trade unions have been in pay negotiations for some time.

We need to reflect that those involved in reaching a fair and equitable settlement have worked hard in very difficult financial circumstances.

Local government has been hit hardest by central government cuts and with at least another two years of severe cuts to come, local councils are mindful of the impact of pay increases on their base budget.

Local government is also mindful that in very difficult circumstances staff have kept vital services running. We are proud of our staff and do not underestimate the very real pressures and cost of living increases they will be facing.

Local councils and staff want to reach a settlement, the longer this goes on the longer it will take for staff to see any increase in their pay packets. It is important we resolve this in the best interests of our hardworking staff and councils.

We are close to agreement on a way forward. I am confident that agreement can be reached and I am prepared to recommend to the NJC Employers that 'Option 1a' is put forward to staff for consultation, subject to the following assurances and support from the trade unions;

That the strike action scheduled to take place on Tuesday 14th is postponed pending consultation with staff on a two year settlement referred to as 'Option 1a'.

That trade unions acknowledge to their members that this is a significant improvement on the original offer of 1% and that there is no recommendation to reject the pay offer.

Clearly the NJC is a cross party group and will form its own view, however like all of us they want to resolve this and i am hopeful that this delivers a good deal for both our workforce and councils.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim McMahon'.

Cllr Jim McMahon, Leader of the Labour Group Office

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