



Extraordinary Council – 2 March 2021

Notice of Motion – Public Sector Pay Award

Notice of Motion from Councillors Rob Stewart, David Hopkins, Andrea Lewis, Clive Lloyd, Jen Raynor, Mark Thomas, Elliott King, Louise Gibbard, Alyson Pugh, Robert Francis-Davies, Andrew Stevens, Penny Matthews, Paul Lloyd, Mandy Evans, Robert Smith, Mary Sherwood, Ceri Evans & Cyril Anderson

This Council condemns the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, and the UK Government to freeze the pay of 2 million public sector key workers but particularly those employed by Local Council's as announced in the UK Spending Review of the 25th November 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic of the last 11 months has seen council workers at the forefront of the coronavirus response, protecting our communities and taking risks on a daily basis.

This announcement, which follows over 10 years of austerity, and has already seen a fall in real terms wages, is outrageous. Sections of the Council workforce including Teachers, Refuse Workers, Public Health Officers and many others, have all played their part in the Covid response. The promised levelling up of those who work in our Social Care Sector including care home workers, domiciliary care workers and social workers, many of whom have risked their lives while receiving the lowest pay and conditions, has been forgotten even before the pandemic has ended and that is a national disgrace. Claps don't pay bills.

People need and deserve decent rates of pay, not a pay cut after many of them have put their lives on the line during the pandemic to keep us all safe. This decision is all the more outrageous given that at the same time as cutting workers wages, spending on the defence budget is to be increased.

Once again it seems that it is front line public sector services that will take the brunt of a failed economic policy which attacks wages and ability to spend rather than encouraging much needed stimulation of growth and investment which will be crucial to improving the UK economy in the coming months and years. The economic recovery should be for the many and not just the few.

Council requests that:

The Leader of Swansea Council write a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking him to reconsider this proposal ensuring the public sector key workers are rightly recognised with a decent pay award in 2021/22.

That the Leader of Swansea Council invite Group Leaders to sign the letter and show their support for key workers.