

Scottish Socialist

Party

COUNCIL WORKERS VOICE



whether Labour, LibDem or SNP imposed...
A PAY CUT IS STILL A PAY CUT!

The Scottish Socialist Party offers 100% support and practical solidarity to members of UNISON, GMB, UNITE and PCS who are making a bit of working class history on 20th August.

For the first time ever, members of all 3 trade unions in all 32 Scottish local authorities are taking united strike action. This is entirely justified given the derisory pay offer from CoSLA, the coalition of Labour, SNP and Lib Dem councils. An offer that falls short of even half the level of inflation - and would imprison over 200,000 workers in pay cuts for 3 years.

PCS members are joining the action - against the SNP government's own 2% pay limit over 3 years.

Inflation is officially at 4.6% - and letting rip.

Daily announcements of new price hikes on life's essentials make this united action even more justified. Gas, electricity, oil companies and supermarkets are piling up £billions in profits for their obscenely rich capitalist owners - but workers are supposed to bow down and accept pay cuts. It's not on!

This one-day strike is a magnificent display of workers' unity.

It is a reminder of how reliant we are on services provided by workers who are then under-paid and under-valued by politicians in councils, Holyrood and Westminster.

FIGHT FOR THE FUNDING

CoSLA chiefs bemoan the underfunding from the Scottish government, who in turn blame Westminster for

inadequate block grants.

Labour, Lib Dem and SNP councillors have all failed to fight for the funding from Holyrood to meet the unions' modest demands for decent pay. They have neither the courage nor principles to unite with the unions, to demand the additional funding from Holyrood and Westminster.

That is what a Scottish Socialist Party council would do. It's what our West Dunbarton SSP councillor, Jim Bollan, has consistently fought for alongside council workers.

New Labour want to make workers pay for the economic crisis - by imposing pay cuts whilst prices and profits rocket, and the bosses of the top 100 companies last year enjoyed average pay rises of 37%.

And the SNP government has chosen to impose their own 2% public sector pay ceiling instead of fighting for the funding off Westminster. They have demanded public sector 'efficiencies' of £1.6billion over 3 years - a recipe for a cull of jobs and service.

A pay cut is a pay cut, whether imposed by CoSLA, Holyrood or Westminster, whether by New Labour, the SNP or Lib Dems.

Unite in action for decent pay. All out on 20th!

Keep up the action after the one-day strike. Demand the funding off Holyrood and Westminster. Demand they tax the rich to fund decent pay. Demand they put services before war and Trident, people's pay before profits.



STRIKERS' PUBLIC MEETING

Weds 20th Aug

**@ The Piper in the Square,
George Sq, Glasgow**

straight after Joint Union Rally

speakers include:

Stephen Smellie (UNISON Scottish cttee)

SSP Councillor Jim Bollan

PCS striker & Richie Venton (SSP)

JOIN SSP: 0141 221 7470 text 07899 732068 email ssp.glasgow@btconnect.com
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Scottish Socialist Party - Council Workers' VOICE

"We must make the 20th a success and then build on it, with a clear strategy for united action over the coming weeks. We are taking strike action to win – not just to make a point or as a token gesture.

The national trade unions need to pour every resource into this battle, to support the members, to ensure determined action continues until we win a decent settlement."

Stephen Smellie, UNISON Scottish local government committee and Joint Trade Union pay campaign group

"I'm striking because council workers delivering essential services have endured pay cuts for years. The people caring for the most vulnerable groups in society ought to be valued by the employers rather than treated with contempt."

Barbara Scott, UNISON steward in City of Edinburgh Health and Social Care

"The 2.5 per cent pay offer is a pay cut with fuel and housing costs spiralling. The offer is insulting. I came to work in public services to deliver a first class service. I don't deserve to get second class pay. We are expected to take pay cuts while bosses in the boardrooms show none of the same restraint."

Jim Snell, Glasgow city council finance worker and UNISON branch officer

"My wage is £216 a week. I'm going on strike because the cost of living is too high. With what they've offered us, I would be struggling to pay my mortgage and Council Tax."

Jean Crawford, Augmented Home Carer, West Dunbartonshire

"Some of our low paid members on £6.50 an hour, who have to run a car to get to work, calculated that with COSLA's 3-year offer they would use up about a third of their weekly income just to fill the tank.

"CoSLA have accepted Brown and Darling's pay restraint without question. And thanks to their deal with the SNP government over council finance, it means low pay as well as cuts in services. It's time to challenge the logic of all this."

Colin Turbett, chair of North Ayrshire UNISON

"The bankers have been bailed out with £billions of public money. There's a blank cheque for war and Trident. But workers' families are expected to take pay cuts for 3 years. It's not on."

Willie Campbell, UNISON steward, Glasgow Social Work

"Council workers face a double whammy. Thousands of them in this council alone will lose huge amounts of money because of Single Status. Now they're also expected to take a pay cut through the national 3-year award.

As a Scottish Socialist Party councillor I am fighting hand-in-hand with the council unions for the funding off Holyrood and Westminster for decent pay, equal pay, and not a penny cut in anyone's pay or anyone's services."

Jim Bollan, GMB and West Dunbarton SSP councillor



Increasingly workers realise New Labour are the New Tories - standing up for the millionaires.

Whilst many vote SNP in the hope of change, they are still a party wedded to big business.

They cut business taxes already. They want to slash Corporation Tax to the 12% level of the South of Ireland. They dropped their commitment to bus re-regulation in the wake of £500,000 funding to the SNP from multi-millionaire bus tycoon Brian Souter. In local councils, the SNP has carried out massive cuts, school closures, job losses.

In contrast, the SSP FIGHTS FOR:

- scrap the Council Tax - for the Scottish Service Tax, based on income, on ability to pay, raising more funds for jobs and services, and making 8 out of 10 Scots better off
- scrap all prescription charges - stop taxing sickness
- free school meals for all children in state schools - nursery, primary and secondary - permanently
- £8 minimum wage for all workers and trainees over 16 - based on two-thirds male median wages - scrap the lower youth rates - end age wage discrimination
- equal pay for women workers - without a penny off the pay of any worker
- a 35-hour maximum working week for all, without any loss of earnings - as a step towards a 4-day week
- abolition of all anti-trade union laws - for a positive charter of workers' rights, including the right to strike, to take solidarity strike action, to be in a union - without fear of victimisation
- a minimum of 1 years' maternity leave on full pay - with the job protected for return, and the choice of returning part-time or full-time without loss of benefits.
- At least 1 month's paternity leave on full pay - and the option of exchanging part of maternity/paternity leave
- tax the rich and the big Corporations - no to the tax havens of New Labour AND the SNP
- reverse all PPP/PFI and privatisations
- public ownership of all services, transport, construction, banks, energy, telecomms, big industries, North Sea Oil - under democratic control and management
- an independent socialist Scotland that stands for people not profit, the millions not the millionaires.

Join the SSP - the party of public ownership, solidarity and socialism

name..... phone

address.....

.....email.....

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