

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**4 February 2014**

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### **Petition Received**

#### **'Call for the Resignation of the Leader and Cabinet of Wiltshire Council'**

Council has received a petition from Mr Paul Gaunt with 2,673 signatories on the above matter.

The petition states as follows:

*'We the undersigned being electors in the Wiltshire Council local authority area state that we have no confidence in Wiltshire Council's Leader and Cabinet and call for their resignation.'*

*Why is this important?*

*On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Wiltshire Council agreed to give a substantial increase in allowances to its members only weeks after making 252 staff redundant.*

*It means Jane Scott, Wiltshire Council Leader will see her allowance rise by 36.5 per cent a year, affording her an additional £14,892 on her present £37,335, bringing the figure to £52,227.*

*The increases, to be backdated from May's elections, those Councillors who are members of the Council's cabinet seeing allowances increase by at least 22 per cent from £15,101 to £18,433 a year.*

*During the summer, the Council ran a voluntary redundancy programme in which 252 front-line staff decided to leave the organisation.*

*Seven of the Council's 18 associate directors took voluntary redundancy. The remaining associate directors have seen their wages rise by 7.5 per cent, on average.*

*The rises for those at the top come at the time when front line staff are seeing their numbers reduced, duties increased and minimal pay rises.*

*This is to the detriment of services and shows a total disregard for service users, the front-line and back office staff at the Council, as well as the Council Tax and Business Rate payers of the County of Wiltshire'.*