

STAFFING POLICY COMMITTEE

8 July 2009

NATIONAL PAY NEGOTIATIONS

Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of the negotiations taking place at national level on the 2009/2010 pay claim.

Background

2. The pay scales of staff within local government are almost all determined at national level within a National Joint Council (NJC) or Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC). These are joint bodies comprised of employer representatives nominated by the LGA and Trade Unions representing staff. The largest negotiating body (other than the one for Teachers) is the National Joint Council for Local Government staff. It covers staff in most other occupations.
3. The annual settlement date for this group is the 1st April. A few months ago the National Employers made an offer to the Unions of an increase from the 1st April of 0.5% and sought acceptance by the Trade Unions by the end of May.
4. The Unions have not accepted either the offer or the "target date". Negotiations continue at national level.
5. In making their offer, the employers had regard to the financial difficulties faced this year and anticipated to be faced in coming years by local authorities. Affordability would be a major problem. For their part the Trade Unions have been claiming that many local authorities have made financial provision for an award beyond 0.5%.

The Local Position

6. The pay bill for this category of employee is about £125M for staff outside of schools plus about £45M for school based support staff.

Conclusion

7. The Committee is asked to note the report. A further report will be brought as negotiations progress.

BARRY PIRIE
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