



Newcastle City Branch

Press Release

1st November 2016

Following a meeting of Newcastle's Labour Group last night, council officers met with the joint trade unions this morning and finally revealed proposals as part of the council's budget for 2017, that would result in 30% of the workforce; some 1800 staff; seeing their wages slashed by up to a third.

The council is proposing to stop paying shift allowance; weekend enhancements and changing the time night rate is paid from 8.00 pm until 10.00pm.

The council have previously released information to the staff, unions and press, on their budget proposals which would see £30M cut from the budget in 2017 with 100 jobs made redundant, but these proposals had been kept hidden.

Paul Gilroy, Branch Secretary of UNISON Newcastle said "It's a disgrace that Newcastle's Labour Council have turned on their workforce to slash staff salaries by up to a third, particularly after recently agreeing to increase the pay of the Chief Executive and Directors". "Many of the staff affected care for the most vulnerable adults and children across the city and this is the thanks they get; another miserable and worrying Christmas for council staff and their families". He went on to say that "industrial action cannot be ruled out at this stage".

Colin Burr from the GMB said "This is an attack on staff who care for the most vulnerable adults and children across the city. It attacks those groups who are predominately the lowest paid and rely on allowances and weekend enhancements, to make a living. Unfortunately once again not only trade union members will be affected by this, but the most vulnerable in our society will potentially suffer by this proposal."

Dave Eglon from UNITE and Steve Conwell from UCATT said "A Labour run Council should hang their heads in shame. They are taking money off the most vulnerable and lowest paid workers at NCC by stripping bare their terms and conditions".

The joint trade unions will meet with their members and formally respond to the council in the next few days

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