

To consider Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36

1. By County Councillor Ali:

This Council has lost confidence in the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and asks the Leader of the Council to replace her immediately.

2. By County Councillor Mein:

This council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. Councils across England are now facing a collective funding gap of £2.4bn for the financial year 2023/24 and a cumulative funding gap of £4.08bn for 2024/25 according to UNISON research.

Lancashire County Council led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government in Lancashire has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster. Recent funding announcements from the Government relating to schools did nothing to help.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local Lancashire government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2023 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our Lancashire workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns, cities and villages running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Lancashire County Council workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- (i) Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%.
- (ii) Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
- (iii) Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- (iv) Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which Lancashire County Council can support the campaign.
- (v) Encourage all local government workers across Lancashire to join a union.

3. By County Councillor Clifford:

The Council resolves:

- (i) To set the ambitious goal of Lancashire County Council itself as an authority becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030.
- (ii) To join the UK 100 network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero with Clean Air in their communities ahead of the government's legal target.

4. By County Councillor Gibson:

The Chancellor announced 12 new investment zones in the recent Budget. Not one of these investment zones was situated in Lancashire.

This Council notes:

- (i) There are parts of Lancashire, particularly the East of the County, that are crying out for such a zone, and yet not one area of Lancashire was chosen.
- (ii) That this Government is either serious about levelling up or it isn't and maybe if less time was spent on fighting ex-footballers and more time was spent on the issues that matter the UK might actually be moving in the right direction.

This Council resolves to:

- (i) Write to the Chancellor to tell us what options he considered in Lancashire.
- (ii) Ask the Chancellor to review the situation and look at the case for an investment zone in the East of the County.