

## Sign the Parliamentary Pay Petition

With RPI inflation reaching 3.9% in October the real value of our pay continues to fall. Staff across local government and support staff in schools have already seen the real value of their pay fall by a staggering 21% since 2009. If the Government sticks to their 1% pay cap the value of our pay will fall even further behind.

With 750,000 jobs already lost since the start of austerity we are all working harder for less pay. How long are you prepared to see this trend continue?

The Government is under increasing pressure to scrap their public sector pay cap. Concessions have already been made to firefighters, police officers and prison officers. But have you noticed the complete failure of the Government to mention council workers?

It is clear we are going to have to make our voices heard. UNISON has launched a parliamentary petition to create a further debate in the House of Commons. We urge all our members, and your family, to sign it.

Visit the branch website [www.sandwellunison.co.uk](http://www.sandwellunison.co.uk) to click on the link to the petition.

The employers are expected to make an offer on 2018 pay award mid-December. We will place details of the offer on our website as soon as possible.



### Campaign Success as Living Wage to be Paid by Sandwell Council

UNISON has been asking and demanding that as a Labour Council, Sandwell should be paying the Living Wage as its minimum pay level and become an accredited Living Wage employer.

5 years later and Sandwell Council has just agreed to 'top up' the salaries of those paid below the Living Wage level to the Living Wage amount. Prior to the new rate to be announced in November 2018 the Living Wage amount outside London is £8.45 per hour.

This means that all Sandwell Council employed staff, including support staff in Community Schools, that are currently on Grade A will receive a 'top-up' payment from 1 April 2018. So too will many on Grade B as anyone below scale pay point 13 are set to receive a 'top-up' to the Living Wage level.

Whilst it is disappointing that the Council is not becoming an accredited Living Wage employer UNISON welcomes this important step in the right direction.

West Midlands Regional Secretary, Ravi Subramanian, who met with the Council Leader to try and persuade Sandwell Council to become a Living Wage employer stated,

"This will put money in the pockets of low paid workers making a real difference to the lives of hundreds of workers and their families. The council should be commended for taking this important step towards full Living Wage accreditation."