



To: Simon Cameron, COSAL SJC Joint Secretary
c.c: Cllr Katie Hagmann, COSLA Resources Spokesperson
COSLA Leaders

9th May 2023

-- via e-mail --

Dear Simon,

SJC Pay 2023

We write following our recent letters to you confirming the outcome of our membership consultations on the pay offer sent to us on 31st March 2023, the decision taken by COSLA Leaders at their meeting held 28th April and our meeting to discuss the same on 3rd May 2023.

You will be aware from our respective communications that the members of all three trade unions have overwhelmingly rejected the pay offer put forward and have indicated their willingness to take some form of action up to and including strike action in pursuit of an improved offer.

Whilst the decision of COSLA Leaders has not been confirmed to us in writing it is our understanding that when they met they had before them a motion tabled by the Labour Group calling on COSLA to approach the Scottish Government for additional funding to improve the pay offer. It is our understanding that this motion was, inexplicably, voted down.

Our members will struggle to understand why, at a time when local authorities are crying out for additional resources and considering devastating cuts to local services and jobs, COSLA have chosen to sit on their hands and see another round of industrial unrest within their workforce rather than fight for proper funding from government. Many of them will undoubtedly question the value of COSLA as an effective voice of local government as a result.

As the Joint Trade Unions of the Scottish Joint Council, and in accordance with the SJC Constitution, we call on COSLA to convene a meeting of the Scottish Joint Council as soon as possible to discuss this matter. Under the constitution we believe that this should be held within 14 days of the request being made. We already have a meeting scheduled for 22nd May and would be happy to use that to discuss this issue but if that does not work for the employers side we would be willing to have an additional meeting on Wednesday 24th May.

In addition, please find attached a copy of the letter that we have sent the First Minister calling for an urgent meeting to discuss this.

We look forward to your early response.

Best wishes,

Johanna Baxter
SJC Joint Secretary
UNISON

Graham McNab
SJC Joint Secretary
UNITE

Keir Greenaway
SJC Joint Secretary
GMB