



Issue 318 **29th August - 5th September 2021**

UNISON ballots council workers on strike action

This week UNISON, Scotland's largest local government union, will begin to issue ballot papers for industrial action in pursuit of a fair and decent pay rise for council staff.

COSLA, the umbrella body representing council employers, had previously offered staff earning less than £25,000 a flat rate rise of £800. Last week COSLA came back with a revised offer of £850 – an improvement of a whole 97p a week. That will get careful shoppers an extra tin of soup a week. Local government workers have been absolutely vital in keeping society functioning through the pandemic. They deserve better.

UNISON intends to take targeted strike action, which means select groups of workers will be balloted. These include members working in school cleaning, school catering, school janitorial as well as those working in waste and recycling services.

Politicians and others are very keen to say how much they value the workers who have kept society running during recent difficult days. Now is the time for efforts to be made to show that value in a way that helps council staff pay their bills.



Join us at 6pm on Wednesday September 1st for a live streamed pay rally with UNISON General Secretary Christina McAnea. UNISON members are worth more! [Register here.](#)

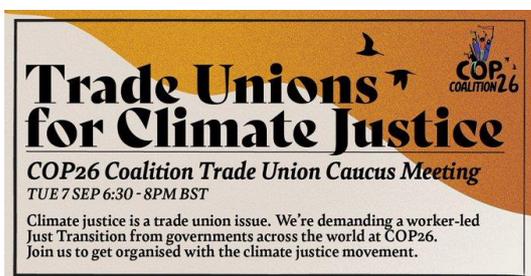
[General Secretary's Blog: Is this the kind of community you want to live in?](#)

[UNISON statement on Scottish Government's inquiry into the response to the Coronavirus pandemic](#)

Guidance on COVID-19 vaccinations

National Care Service Consultation

The Scottish Government has published its proposals for a National Care Service. As the union for care staff UNISON will be taking a close interest in this consultation and any resulting legislation. The proposals are far reaching and complex and will affect UNISON members across several different service groups and sectors. They go well beyond those outlined in the Feeley Review. We have summarised the main proposals outlined in the Scottish Government consultation and some of the implications for existing services in our briefing here.



Climate justice is a trade union issue We're demanding a worker-led #JustTransition from governments across the world at COP26. Join us to get organised with the climate justice movement. All trade unionists welcome! More info: <http://tinyurl.com/trade-union-sep>

PICK OF THE MEDIA

25/08/21 thecourier.co.uk

Scottish council workers to vote on strike action over pay offer.

25/08/21 unison.org.uk

Councils across England, Wales and Scotland face a £3bn funding black hole next year.

24/08/21 dailyrecord.co.uk

Mark Ferguson Renfrewshire branch secretary and chair of UNISON Scotland's local government committee **"The work of our members has saved countless lives and provided essential services at the time of greatest need."**



Welcome to UNISON Scotland learning!

Here is our online education programme for July to December 2021. Build your skills with our national programme UNISON Learning - a whole range of courses for our members.



Financial wellbeing for UNISON members

Join **There For You** on 28 September 2021 at 12:00pm–1:00pm for a free financial wellbeing webinar. Register **here**.

There for You impact report: A colourful, engaging report setting out how much of a positive difference UNISON's charity for members has made this year.

**Coronavirus:
your rights at
work**

Read our Q&A



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To take part in our consultations, surveys and ballots, we need accurate information: **your work, email & mobile.**
