



PRESS RELEASE

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WINTER OF DISCONTENT IN NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

Following a meeting of Newcastle's Labour Group earlier this week, Council Officers informed the Joint Trade Unions that up to 1,800 Council Staff could see their wages slashed by up to 33%.

The GMB Union hit out saying once again Newcastle Council has targeted the most vulnerable employees as part of their budget cuts.

Stephen Thompkins - GMB Regional Organiser said "once again Newcastle Council has chosen to attack trade unions, its members and direct employees and bearing in mind they have recently agreed to pay the Chief Executive and its Directors a pay rise, this is a kick in the teeth for all employees who go well beyond their normal duties, within the Council".

Colin Burr GMB Branch Secretary 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."

Mr Thompkins said "it is clear that the employer has an agenda and whether it is to attack trade unions, or to attack employees, it is something that the trade union or its members will not accept and whilst we are having to sit down and discuss this with the employer, we are making it clear that these cuts are a bridge too far and that if imposed, the trade union would have no option but to ballot for Industrial Action, which once again would affect the community as a whole".

"The employer has had this in mind for some time, but has now suddenly released their proposal. This will come as devastating news to our members, bearing in mind the supposed festive period, but unfortunately this is now something we have come to expect from this Council, as to the way it has in the past treated our members".

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