

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Key policy actions UNISON wants to see from a future Welsh government.

In addition to UNISON Cymru Wales' general manifesto priorities, our members in local government would like the next Welsh government to act in the following areas.

Fair pay and reward for the local government workforce

● A Covid reward payment for all front-line public service workers

All front line local government workers (school support staff; refuge workers; environmental health officers; meals on wheel staff; etc.) who have been providing our vital community services during this pandemic should benefit from the Welsh Government's £750 Covid reward payment.

● A homeworking allowance for all workers required to work from home

All those local government workers who have had to turn their homes into offices to manage our track and trace systems; to manage and coordinate the Covid payments to social care workers and business; to keep all of our public services running smoothly, should benefit from a basic homeworking allowance that ensures no one is put into detriment.

● A substantial annual pay increase for all local government workers

The UK government should reverse its pay freeze policy and provide the necessary funds to support a substantial pay rise for the council workforce, ensuring the minimum pay is no less than the Real Living Wage, in recognition of the services provided and sacrifices made during this pandemic.

A massive council and social housing building programme for Wales

The Welsh Government should oversee a council and social housing building programme, delivered at scale and pace, to ensure that everyone in Wales is able to live in a quality home providing dignity and safety for the whole community.

Quality homes have a substantial positive impact on health; a warm, dry and secure home is associated with better physical and mental health.

People with housing problems are at greater risk of mental health problems. Poor quality housing affects children's ability to learn at school and study at home. Overcrowding is linked to delayed cognitive development, and homelessness delays development in communication skills.

Local government services put at the heart of an equality-led recovery plan for Wales

The provision of good quality local government services such as social care; leisure services; youth centres and services; public libraries etc., has been demonstrated to increase equality of opportunity within communities and would ensure that no-one was left behind in a post-Covid recovery plan.

An end to the provision of public services by private companies

All local government services to be provided by a directly employed council workforce ensuring:

- Public services are accountable to the electorate
- Public services are not provided to profit private companies
- Public services are provided by well-trained, well-motivated and fairly paid workers.

