



LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRADE UNION JOINT STATEMENT

OUTRAGEOUS PENSION PROPOSALS FROM
THE EMPLOYERS

At a Local Government Pension Scheme meeting on 22 September the employers tabled proposals for changes to the LGPS. These are worse than those we saw last Spring and which had to be revoked by John Prescott following a successful ballot for industrial action. All the local government unions considered the employers' proposals to be totally unacceptable.

Following the threat of industrial action in March an agreement was reached to establish a negotiating group involving the trade unions, the employers and the ODPM to find a sustainable long term structure for the LGPS. Since then- and despite promises- the trade unions have not received any of the basic and necessary information that we have requested. Instead the employers have unilaterally put forward the following key proposals:

- Remove the early retirement "rule of 85" with no protection.
- Require employees to pay 1% more in contributions for two years from 1 April 2006.
- No transitional protections
- The employers are also seeking further changes to the LGPS in 2008.

The full proposals are attached and you are encouraged to consider them carefully.

The trade union position is very clear. We say:

- The whole point is to find a long term solution not a short term fix.
- The trade unions must have the necessary information to judge these very complex matters, information that has not yet been provided.
- The trade unions insist that there must be proper time for negotiations and the opportunity to consult with members.
- The trade unions are totally opposed to the burden of any cost falling solely on employees.
- Local government workers are already the poor relations in public sector pensions and the TUs are not prepared to see this get even worse.

Not surprisingly the trade unions are back on a war footing and are seeking urgent meetings with Government. Be prepared!

National Officer, Local Authorities/Local
Government

