

Motion submitted under Standing Order 12

- This Council recognises the continuing hard work of its employees, particularly in tough times and a period of rapid reform for local government.
- This Council welcomes the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP's commitment to tackling low pay during a period of public sector pay freeze, which he gave on behalf of the government in his Budget statement to the House of Commons on 22nd June 2010. In his statement he put on record that:

'...the Government is asking the public sector to accept a two-year pay freeze. But we will protect the lowest paid.'

In the past I have said that we would be able to exclude the one million public sector workers earning less than £18,000 from a one year pay freeze.

Today, because we have had to ask for a two year freeze, I extend the protection to cover the 1.7 million public servants who earn less than £21,000. Together they make up 28 per cent of the public sector workforce. They will each receive a flat pay rise worth £250 in both these years, so that those on the very lowest salaries will get a proportionately larger rise.'

- This Council welcomes the fact that the promised once in a year payment of £250 given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2010 Budget statement has been paid by the Treasury to teachers, prison officers, the armed forces and NHS employees (excluding dentists and doctors).
- This Council notes the average hourly rate of Gedling Borough Council employees is just over £8.70 an hour or £16,800 a year, 65% of staff (FTEs) are paid below the figure referred to in the 2010 Budget statement of £21,000 and that 28% of our jobs are paid at a rate below the living wage.
- This Council notes that the mean annual salary within the Gedling parliamentary constituency for 2012, as referenced in Office for National Statistics' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings is £30,644, whilst the mean annual salary (2012) for the East Midlands is £29,840 and for the UK is £32,708.
- This Council supports the principle set out by the coalition government of providing support to low paid public sector workers in difficult times, particularly in light of the current public sector pay freeze.
- This Council is committed to introducing the living wage for its employees as soon as possible and using its best endeavours to ensure Gedling becomes a living wage borough.
- This Council thanks its entire staff for their continuing hard work, wishes them well for the festive season and a Happy New Year.

Proposed: Cllr. Michael Payne
Seconded: Cllr. Roxanne Ellis