

# Staff walking out over pay at 20 councils

Union members at 20 councils are set to start walking out over pay next week. The members of the Unite union overwhelmingly rejected a pay rise of £1,925, which they said was worse than they got last year, despite continuing inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

The first industrial action will involve Unite members at Chesterfield council who will strike next Wednesday and Thursday (August 30 and 31).

The other councils with industrial action mandates will then take strike action throughout September.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Council workers are on the frontline providing vital services to the communities they serve.

"It is simply unacceptable that workers have been forced onto the breadline due to years of real terms pay cuts.

"Unite never takes a backward step in supporting its members and is dedicated to enhancing their jobs, pay and conditions.

"Unite will be providing its local authority members with its complete support."

The English councils that have secured mandates for strike action are: Bath and North East Somerset, Chesterfield, Coventry, Cumberland, Darlington, Haringey, Ipswich, Newham, North Tyneside, Tower Hamlets, Truro, Sefton, Southwark, Warrington, Westminster and Wigan.

The Welsh councils who are part of the industrial action campaign are: Cardiff, Cynon Valley Waste, Gwynedd and Wrexham.

In addition, Tamar Bridge and Ferry Port, Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence and Derby Homes, whose workers are subject to local government pay, also voted in favour of strikes.