

**GMB****UNION****GMB Union**

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Naomi Cooke  
Local Government Association  
18 Smith Square, Westminster  
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**By email**

28 May 2026

Dear Naomi,

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY 2026**

I am writing in response to your letter of 24 March 2026.

The GMB ballot has been completed and GMB members have voted to reject the 2026 pay offer.

GMB members were dismayed and angered by the failure of the Employers to enter into meaningful negotiations of any kind yet again. Trade Unions submitted the pay claim on 1 December 2025 to provide plenty of time for negotiating meetings to take place. We assumed that the March meeting would be an opportunity to lay out our claim in more detail, adjourn while the employers considered their position and then for the employers to set out the detail of any offer in person.

The political and economic climate has not improved and the spectre of sudden leaps in the cost of fuel, food and the other necessities of life are entirely possible. The offer of 3.3% could be wiped out very quickly and this would see a further fall in the standard of living of our members.

We are undertaking consultation with our National Committees about the next steps on 18 June 2026. Given that both Unison and Unite are already consulting about potential industrial action, GMB is asking for a further meeting with the National Employers to set out the case for an improved offer which we can take back to our members.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Brandstatter  
National Officer