

Peter Taylor, "Senior Administration Officer" is in line for a £6,000 drop. Three quarters of staff, including cooks, cleaners and **carers** will see a pay rise.

Arthur Deakin, "Strategic Administration Officer" said "The other way to fund the pay changes is to increase council tax by 20%"

Question

How do carers, people on modest retirement pensions and the lower paid trying to bring up a family, find ANY extra money to pay for some of these JOBSWORTH with fancy titles?

Carers Allowance is £48 for providing a minimum of 35 hours care in your own home. Some carers have had to give up their FULL time Job to care for a LOVED one. £6,000 would pay for 2 carers to provide a minimum of 70 hours per week for one year with change over. But in this instance what is saved will be more than likely be spent elsewhere. NO CHANGE THERE THEN and your council tax will continue to rise.

Evening Post-Article Dec 7th 2007

MAKING VOICES HEARD: Senior administration officer Peter Taylor supported by colleagues at the council C061207DM3-6

Workers protest over salary cuts

By SARAH FIRTH

MORE than 200 angry council workers held a protest against proposed pay cuts outside County Hall in West Bridgford.

Furious staff, who face losing up to £8,000 from their salaries, handed in a petition with more than 2,000 signatures opposing the pay changes.

Many of the staff protesting were women who face pay cuts even though the move, to be implemented under the national job Evaluation scheme, was intended to prevent gender pay discrimination.

Sue Baxter, 57, a library assistant for 32 years, said: "The changes will really affect me. I will be on the same pay relatively as when I started here. We've developed to get better at our jobs only to be slammed back down to where we came from."

Clerical assistant Stephanie Malster, 61, said: "I will now be on roughly the same wage as a cleaner. I don't want to do their jobs down at all but I've had more training. We feel undervalued."

Cindy Beldham, 42, said the changes would mean that she could not afford school dinners for her three children.

Peter Taylor, leader of the Fair Pay Action Group, said: "Of those workers losing out, 73% are women, some of them single mums with mortgages."

Three quarters of staff, including cooks, cleaners and carers, will see a pay rise.

Workers had voted to accept the deal but the employees' Fair Pay Action Group is demanding a re-ballot. They claim that many

staff did not receive ballot papers at all. They also claim that the 51% majority of Unison members in favour of the scheme was too small to be considered as a mandate.

Mr Taylor, whose salary would be in line for a £6,000 drop, said that a previous ballot on strike action had also returned a majority of 51% but had been dismissed by Unison.

Unison is investigating the claims that the ballot was unfair and staff are expecting the findings to be announced on December 20.

However, many feel this is too late as the council cabinet meet the day before.

Mr Taylor said: "We believe we have eight points on which we can contest the ballot but we are worried that the results of the investigation will be released too late."

The council's strategic director of resources, **Arthur Deakin**, said the vast majority of council staff would benefit from pay restructuring.

He said: "The other way to fund the pay changes is to increase council tax by 20%."

"The trade unions found the ballot acceptable and all three [Unison, GMB and TGWU] had found a positive yes vote."

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