

COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER: Liz Wheatley	
ADDRESS: Camden UNISON Branch Office, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
TEL: [REDACTED]	E-MAIL: [REDACTED]
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 4 plus deputation leader): Zoe Franklin Jones Lynn Wright Ahmod Ali All contactable via Camden UNISON	
Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: No	
Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details of the topic and the meeting to which it was submitted: Yes, divesting our pension fund, over a year ago	

Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

The deputation is about school funding and the impact on school support staff and the children they work with – specifically, in the case of Richard Cobden school where staff are in dispute and about to embark on a second round of strike action primarily about low pay and the level of work they are expected to do for that pay.

In the paper for the themed debate on child poverty, quite rightly there is a significant section on the importance of schools and the role that they play in combatting child poverty. So many of the actions are carried out by our members here, the support staff in schools. We know that they are the invisible workers – and as well as being unseen, they are also under-paid. If the Council wants to make those changes, they need to also make changes to how the staff involved are treated and paid.

We know that school funding is an issue – we're campaigning alongside the NEU about it – but the solution to that isn't to under-pay people. And we would welcome councillors and school leadership members to join us in that campaign, rather than allow some of the lowest paid council workers bear the brunt of it.

Staff in Richard Cobden school have been out on strike once and are about to strike again on 18-21 Nov about their low pay. People doing the same job in some other Camden schools like Hawley and Gospel Oak are paid more, some are about to be paid more, but some like Richard Cobden are paid on a lower grade. This simply isn't fair or right.

These workers are predominantly women, often single parents, and therefore how they're paid affects the chances of their children. They are being well-supported by parents in the school who have signed letters to the school management about this.

We want councillors to hear about why these council workers are in dispute and taking strike action, and have a chance to ask questions about the role that they play in a school, as well as what could resolve the dispute.