

# Ards and North Downs strikes averted after new deal



## The last thing anyone wanted was a strike, but these workers were desperate

Strike action in Ards and North Down councils have been averted after GMB members voted in favour of a new pay deal.

GMB were in the process of balloting members for industrial action in a dispute over pay.

But any walkout has been stopped after Ards and North Down Borough Council and the union members from GMB, NIPSA and Unite struck a deal as follows:

entered into the following local pay agreement to assist employees in the current economic crisis:



- Pay grades will be lifted by one increment for all eligible grades. This will take effect as from 1 April 2022.
- The Council will make two hardship payments of £666 gross to eligible employees. The first payment is due to be made in October 2022 and the second payment around 1 April 2023.

Alan Perry, GMB Organiser, said:

“The last thing anyone wanted was a strike in Ards and North Down. But these workers were desperate.

“This deal is welcome and will help workers keep a roof over their heads – although it will not make up for two decades of real terms pay cuts they’ve suffered.”

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### Member requiring help?

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