

compass

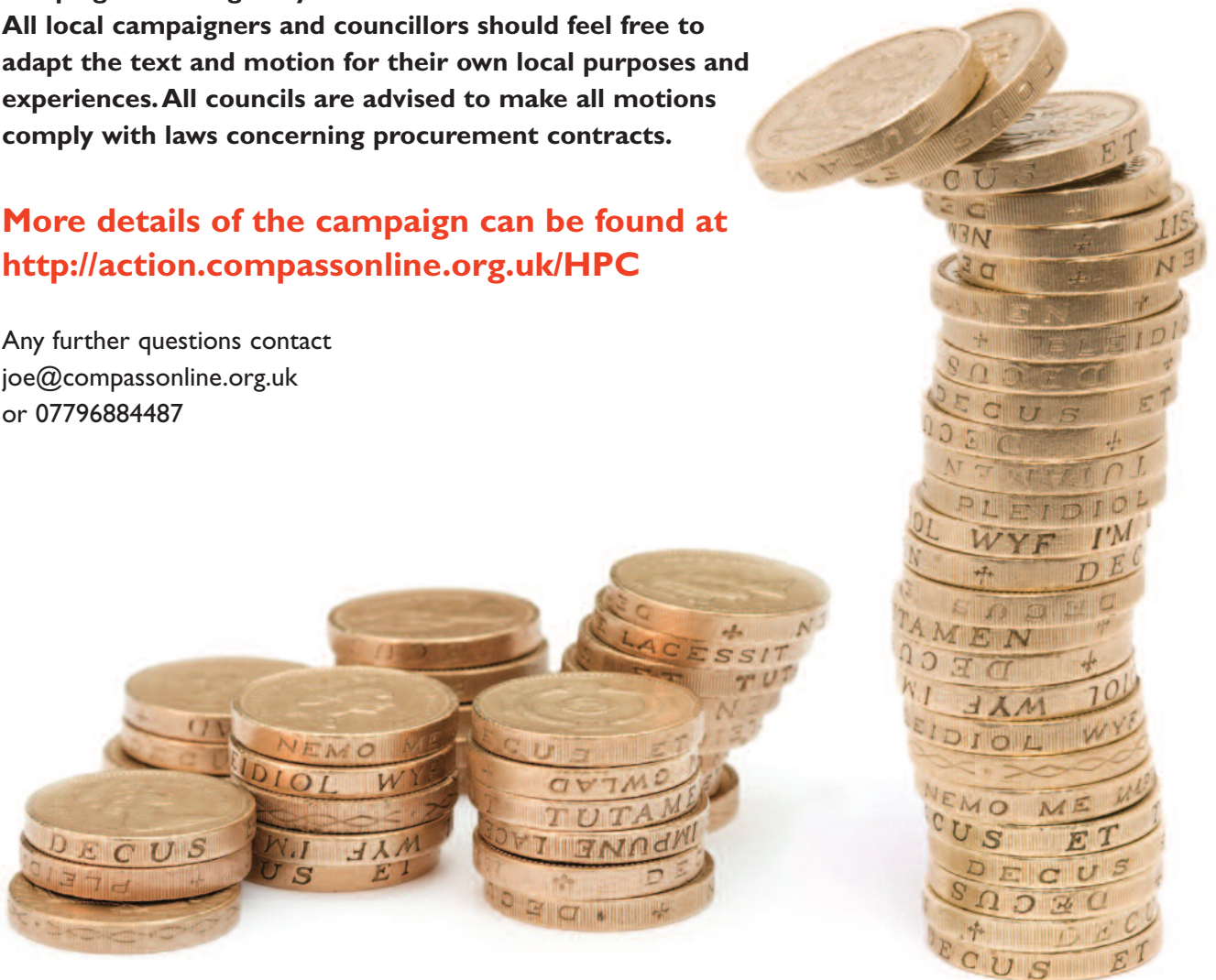
**LOCAL ACTIVISTS/COUNCILLORS**

# **HIGH PAY COMMISSION MINI-TOOLKIT**

**This mini tool-kit contains a basic draft letter, draft motion and draft press releases to use to lobby local councils. This should empower local Compass activists to take the campaign for a High Pay Commission to a local level. All local campaigners and councillors should feel free to adapt the text and motion for their own local purposes and experiences. All councils are advised to make all motions comply with laws concerning procurement contracts.**

**More details of the campaign can be found at <http://action.compassonline.org.uk/HPC>**

Any further questions contact  
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or 07796884487



## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Councillor [                    ],

**Re: Please Take Action to Tackle Excessive Pay!**

On Monday 18th August 2009 Compass launched its campaign for a High Pay Commission with a letter in The Guardian. The letter was signed by politicians from across political parties, academics, writers, journalists, economists, bloggers, campaigners and trade unionists.

What united the signatories was one simple aim: to tackle excessive pay and to rein in the so-called 'masters of the universe', in order to deliver a fairer, stable and sustainable economy for the future.

To find out more please go to <http://action.compassonline.org.uk/HPC>

The crisis we find ourselves in is one significantly caused by greed. The salaries of those at the top raced away while the median wage stagnated. Inequality grew, and an economic crisis ensued. The unjust rewards of a few hundred 'masters of the universe' exacerbated the risks we were all exposed to many times over. Banking and executive remuneration packages have reached excessive levels.

The facts speak loud and clear: an employee working a 40 hour week earning the minimum wage would have to work for around 226 years to receive the same remuneration as a FTSE 100 CEO does in just one year.

We need all levels of government to take the moral lead. As a councillor I ask you to show your support by ensuring council procurement contracts do not exacerbate pay inequalities. I have attached a draft motion which I would like you to put to the council.

PS to find out more about Compass go to [www.compassonline.org.uk](http://www.compassonline.org.uk)

Kind Regards,

# DRAFT MOTION

## Draft Motion

1. Council notes and welcomes the UK-wide campaign for a High Pay Commission to be established.
2. Council believes that the growing gap between high earners and the rest of society is politically, socially and economically damaging. It erodes the bonds of common citizenship; undermines the principles of equal opportunity and the recognition of equal worth; and has fuelled the economic crisis.
3. Council further believes that inequalities in society must be addressed at the top as well as the bottom.
4. Council resolves to support the campaign for a High Pay Commission, and would like to support the following motion:
5. **“It is the responsibility of local government to set the moral lead in the way it allocates and awards procurement contracts. The council will prioritise contracts to those who do not have reckless bonus cultures and to those that do not pay excessive remuneration packages to their executives. This will help to ensure local tax payer’s money does not go to line the pockets of the excessively paid and exacerbate pay inequalities in our society”.**

# SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

## I. SUCCESSFUL

FAO – Local news desks

Date

### **Council pass motion to tackle fat cat salaries for Council contracts**

A motion proposed by Cllr [NAME] at [CITY] Council was successfully passed on [DATE].

As evidence emerges has emerged that FTSE 100 CEOs are still receiving bonuses of up to 90% of their basic pay and city bonuses of around £4 billion are predicted in 2009 this motion will help to ensure the local council does not use tax payers money to exacerbate pay inequalities and the irresponsible bonus culture.

Procurement contracts totalling millions of pounds of tax payer's money are allocated by the council to private companies each year. This motion will actively discriminate against awarding contracts to companies that have an irresponsible bonus culture or award excessive salaries to executives.

Cllr [NAME] said: "I support a High Pay Commission to tackle banking and executive remuneration packages. ETC."

Cllr [NAME] said, who seconded the motion, said: "

**ENDS**

#### NOTES

1. The motion passed read; "It is the responsibility of local government to set the moral lead in the way it allocates and awards procurement contracts. The council will prioritise contracts to those who do not have reckless bonus cultures and to those that do not pay excessive remuneration packages to their executives. This will help to ensure local tax payer's money does not go to line the pockets of the excessively paid and exacerbate the inequalities in our society".
2. **For interviews** and further information please contact xxxxx

# SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

## 2. UNSUCCESSFUL

FAO – Local news desks

Date

### [ COUNCIL] defeat motion to tackle fat cat salaries for Council contracts

A motion proposed by Cllr [NAME] at [CITY] Council was defeated by the ruling [TORY] council on [DATE].

As evidence emerges has emerged that FTSE 100 CEOs are still receiving bonuses of up to 90% of their basic pay and city bonuses of around £4 billion are predicted in 2009 this motion was designed to ensure the local council does not use tax payers money to exacerbate pay inequalities and the irresponsible bonus culture.

Procurement contracts totalling millions of pounds of tax payer's money are allocated by the council to private companies each year. The defeated motion would have actively discriminated against awarding contracts to companies that have an irresponsible bonus culture or award excessive salaries to executives.

Cllr [NAME] said: "I support a High Pay Commission to tackle banking and executive remuneration packages. ETC."

Cllr [NAME] said, who seconded the motion, said: " I am disappointed that... "

### ENDS

#### NOTES

1. **The defeated motion read;** "It is the responsibility of local government to set the moral lead in the way it allocates and awards procurement contracts. The council will prioritise contracts to those who do not have reckless bonus cultures and to those that do not pay excessive remuneration packages to their executives. This will help to ensure local tax payer's money does not go to line the pockets of the excessively paid and exacerbate the inequalities in our society".
2. **For interviews** and further information please contact xxxxx