**Greater Manchester Poverty Action response to the announcement that the Real Living Wage will rise to £10.90 per hour**

**For immediate release – Thursday 22nd September 2022**

Almost 120,000 people working for over 500 Real Living Wage Employers throughout Greater Manchester are set for a vital pay boost, as the new Real Living Wage rate rises to **£10.90 an hour** (an increase of £1).

The rate, set by the Living Wage Foundation, will provide a much needed boost to working families at a time when living costs are soaring.

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) run the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign. During the lifetime of the Campaign, the number of Real Living Wage employers in the city region has risen from 12 to over 500. Such has been the progress, there are now plans to make Greater Manchester a ‘Real Living Wage City Region’.

Commenting on the rise, Graham Whitham - CEO of GMPA, said:

“With living costs rising so rapidly, millions of low paid workers in Greater Manchester are facing a difficult future. That’s why a Real Living Wage is more vital than ever. We welcome today’s announcement of the new rate. This will provide thousands of workers and their families in Greater Manchester with greater security and stability during these difficult times.”

Graham added:

“The best way of tackling poverty and protecting people from soaring living costs is to get more money in their pockets. The Real Living Wage has a vital role to play in making that happen. At GMPA we’re proud of the progress that’s been made in advancing the Real Living Wage agenda in Greater Manchester and we thank all those employers who have committed to it over recent years”.

**Notes to editors:**

Interviews available with GMPA’s CEO, please contact Graham Whitham on graham@gmpovertyaction.org or 07917644435.

For more information about the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign please contact Campaign Coordinator John Hacking on john@gmpovertyaction.org.

This year’s Real Living Wage rate has been brought forward in recognition of the sharp increase in living costs over the past year.

The Real Living Wage rate remains the only wage rate independently calculated based on what people need to live on. This year the rate increased by 10.1% in the UK, more than ever, reflecting sharp increases in living costs.

Unlike the Government minimum wage (‘National Living Wage’ for over 23s - £9.50) the Real Living Wage is the only wage rate independently calculated based on rising living costs. A full-time worker in Greater Manchester earning the new, Real Living Wage would earn £2,730 a year more than a worker earning the current government minimum (NLW), and £1,950 more than their current pay.

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| **About Greater Manchester Poverty Action** Greater Manchester GMPA is a not-for-profit organisation that works to prevent and reduce poverty across Greater Manchester. Our vision is of a Greater Manchester free from poverty, we work to achieve this by: * Producing Money Advice Referral Tools – the tool lists places people can go for advice and other income maximisation support in their borough.
* Running the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign - advocating for widespread adoption of the Real Living Wage by employers across the city region.
* Working with Local Authorities and the Combined Authority on anti-poverty strategies to tackle the high rates of child and in work poverty across Greater Manchester.
* Running Poverty Truth Commissions – embedding the voices of people with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage in decision making structures in Greater Manchester
* Advocating a cash first approach to local welfare - as evidence shows that when extra financial support is provided to low income households in crisis it is used appropriately and in a way that boosts household wellbeing.
* Supporting Local Authorities to adopt the socio economic duty – ensuring transparent and effective measures are in place to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class.
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Website: [GM Poverty Action - Greater Manchester Poverty Action](https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/)
Twitter: @GMPovertyAction and @GMLivingWage

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