

BIRMINGHAM BIN STRIKE: WHY THIS DISPUTE MATTERS TO US

**UNITE
FOR A
WORKERS'
ECONOMY**



1. This is the battle line for all public sector workers

If Birmingham City Council get away with this, who will be next? It will set an example for councils across the country to follow.

Between 1988-2002 there were 6 councils that declared bankruptcy (section 144), since 2018 there have been 11 notices by 9 councils, with studies suggesting 14 more may follow suit.

Why should councils be allowed to cut workers' pay when they have mismanaged public money. Working people should not have to pay twice!



2. We can't let employers get away with pay cuts

This strike is not about an increase pay – it's to stop a massive pay cut of up to £8000! Our members are facing losing up to a quarter of their wages. It is unheard of for a council to be cutting workers' pay so blatantly. We cannot let it happen. Could you imagine being faced with a similar cut during a cost-of-living crisis?

3. We must stand against blacklisting

A agency manager was caught on video blatantly threatening agency workers with blacklisting

stating the council would not give them permanent contracts if they went out on strike. He names senior Council managers as giving the order. Our union cannot tolerate blacklisting. – Those agency staff brought in to break the strike are now getting organised and are joining the action.

4. Our members are fighting hard – we can't let them down

This has been one of the hardest fought strikes in Unite's history. After 12 months of all out strike, our members are still holding strong on the picket lines: and voted 100% in the recent ballot to keep going. We need to show we've got their backs.

A recent quote from Danny Taylor Shop Steward

Asked if he has ever thought about giving up, he said:

"You know what, I think it was two Fridays ago. It was raining, the wind was coming from the north, and it was -2 degrees.

"We were frozen through by eight o'clock, but we still we stayed until 10 o'clock. No amount of cold, no amount of upset, will make us walk away from that picket line. We're here to win.

"If that means standing outside in the freezing cold, the rain, the wind, we're going to do it. We are not going to back down.

"We get so much support from the public. They come down here, see we're still active, and give us support. We're still out here, we're determined not to be beaten and everyone's still strong."



5. There is massive public support

Unite Organisers and Striking workers have knocked on thousands of doors across the city, our community campaign is getting over 90% support for the strike on the doorsteps. Brummies' understand that workers can't pay the price for Council cuts.



6. No matter the party, we will stand up for our members

Our job is to stand up for workers against any employer, whoever they are and whatever colour rosette they wear.

In the past unions were often expected to hand over money to the Labour Party almost like a blank cheque. Through the Unite for a Workers' Economy work we are now investing that money directly into front line campaigns like this dispute or standing up to the cruel and unnecessary cut to the winter fuel allowance with our Retired Members.

7. We must stand up to union-busting tactics

In this dispute Birmingham Council has used every underhand tactic going. Spending £1 million a month on agency staff in attempt to break the strike. Threatening workers with blacklisting.

Using Tory anti-Union laws to stop effective picketing. And now rushing through a "Persons Unknown" anti-protest injunction that threatens activists with imprisonment if they take action to support the workers. Union Busting will not stop us – Unite does not back down to bullies.



8. This is exactly what our funds are for

Unite never backs down to bullying bosses. This dispute has inspired the whole movement. It's a fight for all our members — and exactly why we pay our dues.

Get Involved – Read more about Unite For A Worker's Economy – Scan the QR code.



Support the Bin Workers – Scan the QR code and sign our petition.



Unite – Fighting for **JOBS • PAY • CONDITONS**

