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STRIKE UPDATE

ISSUE 5

Bin Strike United Action Newsletter



- Fair deal for all drivers and loaders – No Cuts To Pay!
- End bullying and dangerous conditions
- In-house contracts for agency staff

Agency strike begins... and Job&Talent shut down all 3 depots for us!



On Monday 1st December, Job&Talent workers came out on official strike.

So now we have two official strikes. Drivers and loaders employed by the Council, Still fighting cuts to

pay. And now joined by Job&Talent employees, who are sick and tired of bullying, unsafe conditions, and



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blacklisting. And of waiting years on empty promises of permanent jobs.

Two official strikes, **but we stand together**. And it's getting management into a massive panic.

On Monday 1st, without us doing anything, management panicked and shut down all three depots for the day! Job&Talent workers were sent a text message saying to stay home for the day ... on full pay.

So we should say thanks Job&Talent for doing our work for us!

Since then, more agency workers are continuing to come out. Which increases the work load on those left, and we're getting more and more complaints every day about overloading and bullying.

This is not sustainable for the Council or Job&Talent. And we'll keep up the pressure till they back down.

Political pressure

The dispute won't just be won on the picket lines. It's now also about ramping up the political pressure.

Because the employer is the Council, that means ultimately, it's politicians who have to make the deal. So, we need to get the message to them: if they don't agree a deal, they'll lose any votes they've got left.

This is the message for the Labour council. If any of them want to keep their seats in May, they need to stop betraying workers and residents.

And it's the message for MPs in parliament. We're now arranging regular meetings with MPs, from Birmingham and across the country, explaining what is happening. This started on 2nd December

when bin reps Matt Reid and Mike Masters, along with organisers, went to Parliament to speak with Labour MPs.

They didn't hold back. Not long ago, they said, the large majority of workers on the picket lines would have voted Labour. How many will now?

Until recently the link between our union Unite and the Labour Party was unquestioned. But this August, almost all of the 800 reps at our Policy Conference voted to "revisit" the Union's affiliation to Labour as a direct result of what's happening in Birmingham.



It's time Labour got the message and change track. Back the bin workers or face wipe-out. Get back to the table and give us a fair deal now.



Ramping up the campaign: we need you!

So how do we make the politicians listen? They need to be hearing this from as many residents, community groups, mosques, temples and churches, sports clubs, and businesses as possible. That's why we have a full-on community campaign organising demos, knocking on doors, getting community groups to sign the pledge and contact councillors.

Now we need to escalate. Councillors and MPs, from all parties, need to feel the heat directly, from as many strikers as possible.

So here's one simple thing you can do. Ask for a meeting with your MP and councillors. Then go along and tell them why you're on strike, and why they need to listen. We can also arrange organisers to go with you if you want their support.

To make it easy, we've set up an automated weblink. You just need to fill out your name and address. The app will automatically identify your MP and councillors and email them all.

Click on the **QR code** to do it! Your union needs you.



Action update

Every week Organisers, Members and Activists are arranging actions to keep the dispute on the top of the agenda – Door Knocking and speaking to residents, arranging protests at the Council, Protesting at Job&Talent to highlight their terrible employment practices and bullying. Get in touch with your Reps or Organisers to help out and follow us on social media insert links and photos of Actions

Join us at the next one!

New proof of strike breaking skulduggery

Strike breaking includes bringing in new agency workers to replace striking workers.

It is illegal. So no surprise, the council keeps denying they're at it. Even though everyone on the picket line has seen new agency workers going in.

Now the Council has also brought in a new agency, called Smart Solutions. Unlike Job&Talent, this is a new company which had no contract to do this before the strike. Now they are blatantly advertising for strike-breaking workers on their website.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH
It's time to stand together
and win permanent jobs
and good conditions.



We also have new solid evidence from the council's own reports. Every month, the council publishes details of all its contracts with agencies and other suppliers.

This shows that, since the strike began, Birmingham Council has been spending three times more on agency and contract workers than it did last year.

That includes payments to Job & Talent and to Tom White Waste.

Altogether, it's spending an extra £1.1 million every month on extra staff.

Is this because it's suddenly started paying agency staff three times more? Doesn't seem likely.

We can only see one explanation. The council is spending over £1 million every month on extra workers in an effort to break the strike.

We won't let them get away with it.