

# STRIKE UPDATE

ISSUE 6

## Bin Strike United Action Newsletter



### Fair pay! Stand up to the bullies! Time to win!

- Fair deal for all drivers and loaders
- End bullying and dangerous conditions
- In-house contracts for agency staff



## Labour's running scared – now let's push to win

It's time to escalate and win.

New year, new beginning. This is the ideal moment for a big push to win the strike.

Why? Because now the politicians have shaken off their Christmas hangovers, and their eyes are all on one thing: the May council elections.

Labour knows they're deep in the proverbial. Across Birmingham, they're out canvassing now every day, running around trying to save their seats. And they're rightly worried.

Last week someone forwarded us this worried message from one Labour councillor to her colleagues:

***"I have received countless emails from individuals and businesses supporting the striking workers, and some are threatening to withhold support from Labour in May if the dispute remains unresolved."***



Seems like finally the message is sinking in. And all the other parties are after them.

With the injunction, we know this strike won't be won just on the picket line. It's also a political fight. So, we are contacting all candidates from Labour and all parties. We are leafleting everywhere they canvas. We are going to their surgeries, meetings, and social events. We are out on the high streets. We are getting support from businesses, mosques and churches, schools and community groups.

To make sure they get one clear message: back the bin workers, or you're finished in May.



Scan here to send  
your message

Encourage your friends and  
family to do the same

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

## Your Depot Organising Committee needs you!

To win this political fight, we need to make the maximum noise possible. We need to get across loud and clear that this is the biggest issue in the city, and the people of Birmingham are on our side.

We need to get out in every area across the city. Maximum noise, maximum pressure.

And to do that we need you. Email your councillors and MP. Go to their surgeries. Get on social media. Come out doing street stalls, putting up posters, doing demos and events.

That's why we have now set up three Organising Committees for the three Depots. These will be making the plans and taking action to escalate the campaign. Get involved!

### Contact your rep today.

**Atlas: Dean 07510 303568**

**Smithfield (Lifford): Danny 07838 283093**

**Perry Barr: Mike 07804 605933**

It's now or never. Together we will win!

### Legal claims

The union has now put in over 400 legal claims on behalf of the strikers. The claims are different for Drivers and WRCOs, but they are all about the way the Council messed up the job evaluation process and then carried out "fire and rehire". Breaking several laws in the process.

The legal claims include "unfair dismissal", "unlawful inducement" (under trade union law TULRCA) and failure to carry out the proper collective consultation process (again under TULCRA). There are also separate claims related to blacklisting.

Taken together these claims will amount to millions of pounds. It's not possible to estimate a precise figure at this point. But the key thing is: if the council drags this out to the tribunal, the legal claims will cost the council more than a fair deal to settle the strike. Unite's barrister (Oliver Segal KC) has advised that claims are "extremely strong".



### Get the facts right

Council boss Joanne Roney is paid £295,000 per year. She's one of the highest paid council officers in the country.

When she got the job in 2024, she got a raise of 13% more than the previous boss. Just a year later, she cut bin worker wages.

Tony McArdle, the lead commissioner, is paid £1200 per day. He is appointed by the government to "oversee" the council's "governance".

On that money, you'd think they could at least get their facts right.

In the Council's "Finance Scrutiny Committee" meeting recently, they were quizzed by councillors. They told one misleading statement after another about the strike.

Including maybe the most brazen. Joanne Roney saying straight faced to camera: "we have not brought in additional agency workers".

When the council's own facts are clear: they're spending an extra £1 million every month on Job&Talent and Tom White Waste, trying to break the strike.

Well, at least they're on the record now. And will be held to account. Watch the video of what they said, and the real facts on our social media – Links here

<https://x.com/UniteEconomy/status/2011150778761961513?s=20>

<https://fb.watch/EFTrv3W3HG/>

Help promote the campaign like comment and share the content

**Save the date:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

- Parliament meeting: Meeting with Preet Gill and other Birmingham MPs in Westminster. Your representative will confirm the names of the delegation.
- **Full Council mobilisation:** Everyone else is encouraged to mobilise for the Full Council meeting. Meet at 12.30 pm at the Council House, Victoria Square.

### Not a member already? Join Unite

We are all Unite! We don't discriminate. Full-time or agency, we are all Unite members.

SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN.

