

# STRIKE UPDATE

ISSUE 7

## 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



## VOTE YES IN THE BALLOT! VOTE YES FOR FAIRNESS, DECENCY AND RESPECT!!

You will soon be receiving a ballot paper in the post. It is vital that you take part and **VOTE YES**. We need to re-ballot to continue to make sure that you are legally protected. Both BCC and agency members will be re-balloted.

We are fighting hard for all members: permanent and agency, we are all together.

Since the New Year, our campaign has demonstrably shifted up a gear. We are all over the media, our message continues to get out. Even more agency workers have joined the union.

We have exposed the **£33m spent** by the Council in trying to break the strike.

We have exposed the Council's **bogus "equal pay" arguments**.

We have exposed the **blacklisting and bullying of agency workers**.

The truth is on our side – and so is the community. We are out on the streets in all areas, getting support from hundreds of residents, businesses and community organisations every day. The new Depot Organising Committees are leading the way.

Labour know they face annihilation at the elections in May. The MPs and councillors are starting to break ranks and back us. Now is the time to dial up the pressure with a massive **YES** vote in the ballot and a huge turn-out. Let's take full advantage of the position we are in.

Let's win a fair deal for all drivers and loaders. And let's eradicate bullying, harassment and blacklisting from our workplaces.

When we re-enter negotiations with the Council and Job&Talent, we need to do so from a position of strength. That is why this re-ballot is so important. It shows our strength, which is the only thing they listen to.

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

## VOTE YES IN THE BALLOT TO BOTH QUESTIONS (STRIKE ACTION AND ACTION SHORT OF STRIKE ACTION)

**HAVE YOUR VOICE  
HEARD - VOTE YES!**



## Building the pressure: the political campaign

The council, with the Labour government behind it, has spent £33 million trying to break our strike. They don't seem to care about the residents paying for all this ... but what they do care about is their votes in the May local election!

So we have a simple message: give bin workers a fair deal, or pay the price in May. Because we will be out in every area making sure the strike is election issue Number 1. Here's what we've done so far:

- ◆ Contacting every Councillor and MP, visiting their surgeries and events. Get involved!
- ◆ Contacting all Labour candidates, and leafleting the areas they are targeting.
- ◆ On 21<sup>st</sup> January, bin reps went to Westminster to meet MPs from the "Mainstream", "Tribune" and "Blue Labour" groups who are jostling for the Labour leadership.
- ◆ Also on 21<sup>st</sup> January, MPs held a "Westminster Hall" debate in parliament, where they confronted the minister about the strike.
- ◆ On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, a big contingent from Perry Barr depot visited Paulette Hamilton MP at her surgery.
- ◆ On 27<sup>th</sup> January, bin workers are going to meet the Birmingham MPs in Parliament.
- ◆ On the same day, we are handing in a letter of support from MPs to Keir Starmer.

This is just the start – we need to all keep up the pressure!

### Support from MPs in the Parliament debate on 21<sup>st</sup> January:

These are the first cracks ... now we need to push them all to support us!

**Scan here to send  
your message to  
Councillors and MPs.**



**Encourage your friends and  
family to do the same.**

Ian Byrne MP (Labour, Liverpool West Derby): *"This is not a strike for more money. This is a strike against brutal pay cuts, bullying and union busting. And here's the truth. This strike can be ended. The money is there."*

Tahir Ali MP (Labour, Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley): *"The narrative that is being played out by the leadership of the Council that this is a dispute that will impact hugely on equal pay – if that is the case, just as Unite have published their KC's advice, would the council put their advice to the public, so we can all see what advice they have received?"*

Ayoub Khan MP (Independent, Birmingham Perry Barr): *"A dispute that could have been resolved at a fraction of the cost has instead been allowed to spiral into a financial and service delivery disaster ... Tens of millions of pounds have been burned on band-aid solutions."*

## Out on the streets: the Depots get organising

The three Depot Organising Committees are now up and running. They will be organising weekly action days on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, to get our message out loud. Actions last week included:

- ◆ Leafleting the public at busy train stations and supermarkets, asking residents to support the strike and email their councillors.
- ◆ Leafleting and banners at the council's Waste Drop sites.
- ◆ Banners and photos at local fire station, solidarity from the Fire Brigades Union.
- ◆ Demo at Paulette Hamilton MP's surgery.

This is your campaign. Bring your ideas, and get involved!

## Join Unite

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

**SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN.**

