

LABOUR: Back the Birmingham Bin Workers!

Get in the room and deliver what you promised

No more phoney excuses

What is the dispute about?

- Hundreds of Birmingham refuse workers have been on strike for over six months against pay cuts of up to £8,000.
- The Labour-run Council is effectively “firing and rehiring” loaders and drivers and is now threatening compulsory redundancies.



Why is it still going on?

- Westminster Labour is blocking a deal. The Council’s Managing Director negotiated a deal with Unite to end the strike in July. But the deal was blocked by the Commissioners currently running the council for the Labour Government in Westminster.
- Birmingham Labour is missing in action: Council Leader John Cotton, Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson – no Labour politician has turned up to negotiations.

Isn't this about equal pay?

- No! Labour is using women’s rights as a smokescreen to push men’s pay down.
- The country’s top employment lawyers say the Council will **not** incur big new equal pay liabilities if it signs the deal with Unite. They say the Council’s arguments are “overstated” and have little basis in law.



- In fact, Labour could easily afford Unite's demands with zero impact on other services. It has already set aside enough money to resolve the dispute within its current spending budget.

So why won't Labour do a deal?

- The reality is the attacks on refuse workers are part of Labour's "Austerity Mark II" programme for Birmingham. Social care, kids' care, libraries and street lighting are all being cut.
- Instead of negotiating, Labour is spending millions on agencies to break the strike. Labour is spending more on the strike than it is saving by closing adult day centres across the City.

What do refuse workers want?

- Negotiate in good faith with decision makers in the room.
- Take on board the new legal advice.
- Return to the deal supported by all sides during the July negotiations.



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

(X) (I) @UniteWestMids (f) @UniteWestMidlands