# Birmingham City Council cuts lorry drivers’ pay amid ongoing waste workers’ strike



A prolonged dispute between Birmingham City Council and members of the Unite union over refuse workers’ pay has deepened after the council decided to cut the salaries of lorry drivers, further complicating efforts to resolve the strike. The dispute, ongoing since last month, has resulted in significant piles of uncollected rubbish accumulating on the streets of Birmingham, creating growing public concern across the city.

Unite members have been engaged in an all-out strike which has affected waste collection services throughout Birmingham. The council’s recent decision to reduce the pay of refuse lorry drivers from £40,000 to £32,000—a substantial cut of £8,000—has been described by the union as an escalation of the dispute.

The union’s general secretary, Sharon Graham, responded firmly to the council’s move. Speaking to The Irish News (Belfast), Graham stated, “Today’s actions show clearly that Unite has been correct all along. Birmingham City Council is taking money off workers to pay off their debt to the Government. Workers are again paying the price for bad decision after bad decision.”

Graham emphasised that such pay reductions were “completely unjustified” and asserted the union’s refusal to accept the council’s actions. “Unite will not stand by and allow the council and this Labour government to inflict these savage pay cuts on workers. No worker should be expected to lose these eye-watering amounts of money from their pay packet.”

She also criticised the Labour government for supporting the council amid what she characterised as detrimental treatment of workers: “The Government has protected a Labour council that has been treating workers in this outrageous way. It is no wonder Labour is increasingly not seen as the party of workers. They should hang their heads in shame.”

Despite the increase in tensions, talks involving the conciliation service Acas are scheduled for Thursday, with the union suggesting that a deal could be “within touching distance.” These negotiations are expected to be the next critical step in attempts to resolve the dispute and restore waste collection services in Birmingham.

The ongoing strike and accumulating refuse have drawn widespread attention within the city as residents cope with the environmental and health concerns posed by the growing waste. The situation remains fluid as both sides prepare for further talks, with the outcome likely to have significant implications for waste management and worker pay agreements in the city.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/council-refuse-workers-begin-indefinite-strike-amid-row-over-jobs-and-pay-b1215902.html> - This article details the indefinite strike by nearly 400 council bin workers in Birmingham, citing disputes over job roles and pay, and the union's warning that disruptions could continue into the summer months.
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