

Support staff vote to strike over pay row

The Press and Journal

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Byline: ELLIE MILNE

Body

School and nursery support staff across Scotland have voted to take strike action over an ongoing pay dispute.

More than 8,000 council staff were asked if they would agree to support the industrial action after a 5.5% pay offer was rejected earlier this year.

The "clearly unacceptable" offer was overwhelmingly rejected by 94% of GMB Scotland members.

Now, the union has confirmed a third of Scotland's local authorities have voted in favour of strikes with action to take place after the school summer holidays - unless there is a breakthrough at last-ditch talks today.

Industrial action has been backed at a number of councils across the country, including Aberdeen, Orkney and the Western Isles.

GMB Scotland previously criticised Cosla, which represents Scotland's 32 local authorities, for being unwilling to offer a fair pay rise and for not asking ministers to intervene.

A meeting with Cosla is scheduled to take place as a "last chance" to avert strike action.

Keir Greenway, GMB Scotland's senior organiser for public services, said: "It is no surprise that our members are prepared to strike rather than accept an offer that is less than last year despite the costs of living being even higher.

"Our members have now spoken and Cosla should listen and arrive with a fair offer and seize what is the final opportunity to avert industrial action.

"Whether it is our members voting to strike in schools or those in parking who will take action within days, council workers are sick of being overworked and undervalued."

Pupils returning to school after the summer holidays could now face disruption due to cleaning, catering, janitorial and support staff taking action.

Support staff vote to strike over pay row

Teachers will not be involved in any upcoming strikes after the main teachers' union, EIS, voted to accept a pay offer in March.

A 7% rise will be backdated to April 2022 with a further 5% to April 2023 and 2% in January 2024.

Meanwhile, college lecturers in Scotland have also voted in favour of industrial action, with support from 78% of EISFELA members. Strikes will be held by staff at 26 further education colleges across Scotland in the new academic year if a pay agreement is not reached.

Graphic

ACTION: Pupils could face more disruption after the school summer holidays.

Load-Date: October 27, 2023

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Binmen go on strike over pay in North Yorkshire

York Press

August 1, 2023 Tuesday

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THE PRESS

Length: 572 words

Byline: Kevin Glenton

Body

STRIKE action by binmen in Selby over pay intensified today (August 1) - affecting non-recyclable household waste collection days.

Unite the Union said workers at contractor Urbaser - who collect and empty bins on behalf of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) - planned a walk out as industrial action deepens.

The workers plan to take strike action over four days from today (August 1 to August 4).

Further walkouts are planned from Tuesday to Friday each fortnight afterwards until September 29.

The union has warned strike action will deepen further if the dispute is not resolved.

Workers rejected an eight percent pay offer plus bonuses - the union saying bin loaders and grounds workers are paid 10.64 an hour and refuse lorry drivers, who require an HGV licence, are paid 12.51 an hour.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: -Urbaser-s Selby workers are struggling with being paid some of the lowest rates in the country for doing a difficult and unpleasant job.

-It is disgraceful that North Yorkshire Council is allowing this on their watch and are missing in action while the disruption caused to Selby-s residents increases.

-Unite will be providing all the support our members need as they step up strike action for a fair pay rise.-

Andy Turner, regional operations manager at Urbaser said: "Regrettably, industrial action continues for a small proportion of employees at our Selby depot in response to a pay dispute.

"We will continue to deploy our remaining resources to limit disruption to services.

-Urbaser values its staff members, and we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the remaining workforce who have worked tirelessly to minimise the disruption to services.

"We remain hopeful that Unite will re-engage in constructive discussions so that we are able to resolve the dispute swiftly.-

Binmen go on strike over pay in North Yorkshire

Some Urbaser workers staged industrial action over individual days at the end of June.

Councillor Jack Proud, representing the Selby East division, said: "As a former refuse collector myself in Selby I have been very disappointed to see that strike action has been taken over the past few weeks.

"This action should always be as a last resort and from speaking to workers at the depot they felt there was no alternative with discussions hitting a brick wall.

"People can't just -hold their nerve- and hope things improve, they need support now.

"Hopefully there can be a resolution to the strike action in the coming weeks and Urbaser improve the offer they have made so far so normal collections can resume."

Read next:

- Liberal Democrats call for cross-party climate action after amendment denied
- BBC Radio York staff strike over cuts in local output
- York garden in unusual spot with its own flamingo wins top award

Councillor Steve Shaw Wright, Labour group leader at North Yorkshire Council and co-representative of Selby West division, said: -Given the issues that the Selby staff find themselves trying to resolve it-s no wonder that they have decided to take further industrial action.

-Workers don't withdraw their labour lightly, but their current terms and conditions are frankly unacceptable.

-When it-s obvious that others that the terms and conditions of other doing the same job across the NYC area receive far better pay, coupled with an intransigent employer, then the withdrawal of labour is the only way left for the workforce.-

North Yorkshire Council were approached for comment and we'll add it here when we hear back.

Load-Date: August 4, 2023

Teachers accept government pay offer, strikes to end

Teachers accept government pay offer, strikes to end

Bangladesh Weekly

August 1, 2023

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Length: 369 words

Byline: Shelbin MS

Body

The largest education unions in Britain, including the National Education Union (NEU), on Monday (31) announced that teachers in England have voted to accept the government's pay offer.

This decision marks a significant boost for prime minister Rishi Sunak's efforts to resolve the ongoing wave of disruptive public-sector strikes.

The NEU, which has been involved in strikes that led to school closures several times this year, said that teachers have chosen to end industrial action and agree to the 6.5% pay rise that was announced by Sunak on July 13.

"Members have spoken very clearly and in great numbers," Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, joint general secretaries of the NEU, said, describing the deal as the "highest pay award for over thirty years."

Earlier this month, education unions had made the announcement that they would suspend planned strikes and encouraged their members to vote in favour of accepting the government's pay offer.

The NEU, representing over 450,000 teachers, lecturers, education support staff, and leaders, disclosed that approximately 86% of its teacher members who participated in the vote opted to accept the offer, thereby putting an end to the industrial action.

The voter turnout stood at 60%.

"This is good news for teachers, good news for parents and most of all, good news for students," Britain's education minister Gillian Keegan said in a post on Twitter.

The teachers' union NASUWT said a majority of members who responded to a consultative survey accepted the pay award. The union warned that more needed to be done to tackle "excessive workload and long working hours."

Two smaller British education unions have also accepted the deal.

Britain has been facing its worst wave of industrial unrest in years, including by railway workers, as pay offers fail to keep up with high inflation.

Sunak's pay offer still faces opposition from healthcare workers, whose walkouts have disrupted an already burdened state-run health system with thousands of cancelled appointments.

(Reuters)

Teachers accept government pay offer, strikes to end

The post Teachers accept government pay offer, strikes to end first appeared on Bangladesh Weekly.

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Load-Date: August 1, 2023

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Kings Lynn Cooper Roller Bearings workers to strike over pay

Impact Financial News

August 3, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 270 words

Body

London: Unite the Union has issued the following press release:

Profitable company offering strings attached deal that amounts to 'pay cut '

More than 100 workers employed by Cooper Roller Bearings in Kings Lynn are to strike over pay, Unite, the UK ' s leading union, said today (Wednesday 2 August).

The workers have rejected a 5.5 per cent pay offer. With the true rate of inflation, RPI, standing at 10.7 per cent, this is a real terms pay cut.

The offer also comes with a 'strings attached ' performance related bonus of up to six per cent.

Cooper Roller Bearings made a profit before tax of more than £7 million in the year ending 31 December 2022.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Cooper Roller Bearings brings in millions and can easily improve on its strings attached offer. Unite is wholly dedicated to defending and improving its members ' jobs, pay and conditions and our members at Cooper Roller Bearings have their union ' s total backing in striking for a fair pay rise. "

The workers will strike for one day on 21 August. After that a continuous overtime ban will commence, with strike days doubling every week until the dispute is resolved.

Cooper Roller Bearings produces split roller bearings, tapered roller bearings and specialised bearings used in the steel, mining, marine, power and cement industries. The strikes will severely impact production at the factory.

Unite regional officer Steve Harley said: "This disruption to Cooper Roller Bearings clients is entirely of the company ' s own making. They need to return to the negotiating table with an offer that is acceptable to our members. "

Load-Date: August 4, 2023

Kings Lynn Cooper Roller Bearings workers to strike over pay

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Asian Times

August 1, 2023

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Byline: Shelbin MS

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