

# **Single Status Action News #7 21 February 2008**



## **All Out Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

Reports from around the council show that support for our dispute is strengthening. With your support, the next one day strike could bring the breakthrough we need to get an acceptable settlement to the dispute.

### **Why You Should Come Out**

- Our dispute is the biggest and strongest ever in the council. That's because the pay and grading structure is so unfair and unacceptable. Members understood this in giving a 75% Yes vote in our ballot. We have no choice but to make a stand now.
- We won massive support from the media and the public on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Newspapers, television, radio and internet news gave us great positive coverage. We can and must build on that.
- We showed we are united and now must stay united. Refuse Collectors, Care Workers, Teaching Assistants, Planners, Library staff, street cleaners, cooks, clerical workers and hundreds of other staff groups are united in their opposition to the pay/grading structure and new contracts.
- The council has been misleading the public over supposed talks that have not take place. Despite invitations from the trade unions, management have only just started talking with us again. The first session they offered was Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, over two weeks after the strike. That's why we must keep up the pressure or management will walk away.
- At the heart of the dispute are the same issues – unfair pay; annual assessment based increments; flexibility clauses to work any job, anywhere, anytime; the need for more funding to help those losing; compulsory monthly pay and other concerns.
- A quarter of the workforce, over 9,000 people have been placed at the bottom of Grade 2, spine point 11, regardless of the points they scored. Another 3,500 people are at the bottom of Grade 1, regardless of the points they scored. This is not equal pay for equal work.
- 20,000 staff have lost between £500 and £1,000 a year because the council has trimmed the top point off Grades 1 to 5.
- The council has offered little or no extra help to thousands of staff losing pay. They claim new figures reduce the level of suffering. We say that's cold comfort to those still losing thousands.
- This fight will determine your pay and conditions for years to come. It is a blueprint for a workforce made ripe for privatisation. We are winning and we must win this dispute. Join us on strike.

### **Plans for the Day**

<b>Pickets</b>	<b>Early to mid morning, guideline 7 – 10, depending on workplace</b>	
<b>Street Protests</b>	<b>Mid morning, 10.00 to 11.30 am</b>	<b>Northfield Swimming Baths, Washwood Heath School,</b>
ASDA Roundabout Small Heath,	Kings Heath Library,	

Attwood Hse 72 High St Harborne,  
Newtown Swimming Baths

Handsworth Library  
Stratford Road Library

Erdington Six Ways,  
House of Sport, Broad Street

**Rally**

**Lunchtime, Victoria Square**

12.00 – 1.00 Live Music, Entertainment, Face Painting etc

1.00 – 2.00 Lobby Of Council Budget Setting Meeting

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