

Fighting Fire and Rehire at Sandwell Leisure Trust

UNISON members fighting fire and rehire took strike action on 30th April. They received good support on the picket lines, with SLT needing to take down their Facebook page due to the comments criticising their fire and rehire.

Earlier this year Sandwell Leisure Trust dismissed and re-engaged staff to remove them from the national NJC body for pay, terms and conditions for financial reasons. Saving just £97,000 in the first year, this fire and rehire was totally unjustified as Sandwell Leisure Trust began the pandemic with £4million in reserves. On the day before the strike, they emailed all staff stating they had now just got £3.9million in reserves!

Sandwell Leisure Trust even refused additional support from the Council if they remained an NJC employer.

Members are concerned what will happen to their terms and conditions once the promise not to make any further changes expires during March 2022.

At a time when a new £73million Aquatic Centre is being built in Smethwick for the 2022 Commonwealth Games there can be no justification for this fire and rehire.

UNISON has written to every Labour Councillor asking them to uphold Labour values by telling Sandwell Leisure Trust that whoever runs the leisure centres they must employ staff on national pay, terms and conditions.

Will the Council's legacy from the 2022 Games be that they allowed Sandwell Leisure Trust to fire and rehire?

UNISON has called a socially distanced protest rally outside the construction site of the new Aquatic Centre.

Join the Protest Rally
1:30pm-2:30pm
Tuesday 22nd June
Londonderry Lane, Smethwick.

UNISON members will be undertaking another one-day strike on Friday 25 June.



John Spellar, Labour MP for Warley, showing his support for the strike.

Trouble at the Bin Depot?

Workers at Shidas Lane are getting increasingly frustrated at their Management in Serco.

Concerns about health & safety issues being disregarded by Management and the poor state of the aging vehicles they use every day, are adding to the frustrations.

Serco has been awarded huge contracts during the pandemic and their profits increased massively. Despite working through the waves of the pandemic, the only thanks given to staff was a pre-tax payment of £100.

UNISON will be meeting and consulting members at Serco.

Children's Trust Staff Want to Keep Working from Home

In a UNISON survey staff working for Sandwell Children's Trust clearly stated that the majority do not wish to be in the office more than 1 or 2 days a week. Only 13% wanted to be in the office 4 or 5 days a week.

89% wanted UNISON to negotiate a homeworking allowance for broadband and heating etc.

UNISON will continue to ensure any return to the office is COVID secure.