UNISON Condemns the rescinding of the Climate Emergency

After a year that saw 5 heatwaves in the UK, following last year's 4 heatwaves, and witnessed wildfires the likes of which we've not seen before across the West Midlands, it is a total abdication of responsibility for Sandwell's Reform Councillors to rescind the climate emergency Sandwell Council only declared in 2020.

It is blatantly obvious to all that the world is warming up. From the record-breaking temperatures in the UK year after year to the devastating floods in Nepal that killed thousands after a melting glacier swept away a whole town, rescinding the climate emergency denies reality.

The heatwaves, the floods, rising food prices from the loss of crops, see us all suffer from global warming. We need our governments and politicians to stand up against the Billionaires that profit from fossil fuels and the ensuing chaos from climate change and put the common interests of ordinary people first.

Reform UK has clearly shown once again that it is a party that puts the interests of the Billionaires first. Of course, when you are a political party that is funded by crypto-Billionaires, run by two tax dodging millionaires Farage and Tice, shock horror, they stand up for the Billionaires and the rich at every turn.

UNISON campaigned for Sandwell Council to call a climate emergency and play its part in reducing carbon emissions.

In UNISON's Year of Green Activity, we will continue to campaign for all politicians to tackle the climate emergency and we call upon the Reform led Sandwell Council to ensure staff remain safe whilst providing services to residents during the heatwaves and floods to come.

Officers failed to apply Council's Redundancy Pay!

The Council has a policy of paying redundancy pay based on your weekly earnings. It came to UNISON's attention that since April Officers chose to ignore this policy following the government increasing the statutory redundancy pay level. However, the Council has a policy of paying more than the statutory redundancy levels, which any employer is entitled to do.

Without either any consultation with your trade unions or seeking any formal change to the Council's policy, Officers applied the statutory limits on redundancy pay. The Joint Trade Unions therefore lodged a 'Failure to Agree'.

It is pleasing to report that the Council is now applying its own redundancy policy correctly and paying on weekly pay without limitations. If you know of any colleagues that have received redundancy pay since April, please ask them to contact their trade union.

Sandwell Serco Union Members Stand Firm

UNISON members voted 100% on a 100% turnout against managements proposals to change task and finish. Other unions had similar votes too. These votes gave all unions a mandate for a formal strike ballot.
The response by management is to hold off from any changes to task and finish for now and hold further talks after new collection rounds are introduced.

Do you want to receive ballots by email?

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