

Waste workers continue fight for better pay and other rights

 [U.K.](#)

In a long-running and bitter dispute over pay in [Coventry](#), the Unite trade union has just discovered that the local authority has agreed a 12% pay increase for the workers in the private company that is being used to try to break the strike. Meanwhile, Unite members at [Rugby](#) Borough Council began strike action on 26 April to get the local authority back to the negotiating table. In [Croydon](#), South London, Unite members employed by Veolia are being balloted for industrial action following the rejection of a 2.5% pay offer. Members of Unite and the GMB, in [Manchester](#) called off their action when the private contractor, Biffa, agreed a pay deal worth 11% to the lowest paid and 22% to qualified drivers. Similarly, in [Northampton](#) a strike threat by GMB members against Veolia led to a settlement with a new minimum pay rate of £10 (€11.75) an hour. GMB members in [Wealden](#) in South East England agreed to suspend their strike over pay to allow negotiations with Biffa and their colleagues in [North Somerset](#) were also waiting for the employer to come up with a better offer to avoid new strike action. Unite members in local authorities in [Northern Ireland](#), including waste workers, are also on strike over pay while their colleagues in [Cardiff](#) began strike action on 22 April in protest at toxic environment of bullying in the council's waste department.

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