



PRESS RELEASE

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UNION LEADER CALLS ON COUNCILS TO USE THE 'WINDFALL ON WAGES' TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE IN COMMUNITIES

GMB Northern regional secretary, Billy Coates calls on all council leaders across the region to direct unpaid wages of striking council workers to stock up local food banks or support key community groups tackling poverty.

A letter has been sent to council leaders expressing outrage at the fact that public service workers continue to carry the burden of government cuts and have seen their pay fall by 18% in real terms under this Coalition government.

Billy Coates said: "I know our local councils are as outraged as GMB members about the scale of the cuts, particularly across the Northern Region. Local government public sector workers have borne the brunt of these cuts for the last 4 years in either job losses or cuts to their pay, terms and conditions and it can't carry on. GMB members have not made the decision to take industrial action lightly, and in going on strike they are forfeiting a day's wage to demonstrate to this government the value of their work and service.

I am therefore calling on all councils to use the money saved from not paying the wages of those taking strike action, to not absorb this into the council's coffers, but instead to support local food banks or other key community groups tackling poverty."

-ENDS-

