

WHAT'S HAPPENING.

11 Jun 2019

BIRMINGHAM CARE WORKERS CELEBRATE MOMENTOUS VICTORY



UNISON members are celebrating after claiming victory in a dispute with Birmingham City Council over plans to make 'indefensible' cuts to the hours of low paid care staff.

The union has been at loggerheads with the local authority since July 2017 when councillors announced plans to make around £2 million of savings by slashing the hours of care staff working for its

enablement service.

Over 200 low-paid care workers, 96% of whom are women, would have lost up to £11,000 a year as a result of the cuts, says UNISON.

It has taken 82 days of strike action, over an almost two-year period, for the council to finally reverse its damaging plans. This is believed to be the longest dispute in West Midlands history.

UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis said: “If the council really is withdrawing these proposals, then it’s a vindication for these incredible care workers.

“For well over a year they’ve fought against plans which put their jobs at risk and threatened massive pay cuts these low-paid workers could ill-afford.

“It’s been an incredibly difficult time for them. They’ve repeatedly taken strike action, not because they wanted to, but because they knew they had to.

“From the outset our whole union has stood with these care workers because their fight matters to all of us – as it matters to the communities these care workers serve.

“UNISON members have earned their right to celebrate a momentous victory. And they can hold their heads up high. I am proud they are part of our union.”