

COUNCIL MEETING – 20th MARCH 2024

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A2 to WP3	19/3/24	19/3/24

Submitted by:	Councillor Sam Firth
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Resources)
Relevant Director	Director of Strategy and Resources

Delete all after “Council” and replace with:

“believes working people, parents and pensioners in Leeds should be free to go about their business, get to work, drop their children off at school or access the NHS services their taxes pay for without excessive disruption caused by striking public sector unions.

“Council therefore welcomes the introduction of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023, believing it achieves the appropriate balance between the rights of workers to withhold their labour and the rights of taxpayers to access the state-funded services and infrastructure they pay for. Council notes the UK has now joined other countries such as France, Spain, and Italy, which already have minimum service laws in place.

“Since 2010, the Conservative Government has delivered one of the best workers’ rights records in the world, with more employees on the payroll than ever before and one of the highest minimum wages in the world – more generous than those in similar economies such as France, Germany and Japan. This is in stark contrast to the inheritance of record high unemployment and reliance on state welfare left by the last Labour Government, and every post-war Labour administration.

“Council recognises the value individual shop stewards add within the workplace, representing their members in individual workplace disputes, including here at Leeds City Council where unions have live disputes against this Council as an employer.

“Council believes trade unions are best placed to fund these activities from their own members’ subscriptions, which is reasonable given trade unions declared assets of over £2.2 billion in 2021/22. There appears to be no need or justification for Leeds taxpayers’ money subsidising trade unions to the tune of £840k when these funds could be used to provide residential care for vulnerable children, addressing this council’s backlog of EHCPs, repairing the city’s roads, or keeping car parking free in local town centres.

“Council is alarmed at the cyclical nature of taxpayers’ money subsidising wealthy trade unions who hold political funds worth more than £30 million; funds used to support the election of Members of this Council’s administration.”



Councillor Sam Firth

Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
- Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
