



Dear Canterbury Labour Councillors,

We the undersigned are writing to you today to ask for your help to settle the current dispute between our employer Canenco, the company owned by Canterbury Council to provide refuse services across the city, and us the Canenco workforce.

As you will know we are dedicated and work hard every day to provide the best service possible to keep our streets clean and refuse and recycling collected.

We are Canterbury residents ourselves and care about the environment we and our families live in.

However, we are also low paid workers, and the current cost of living crisis is a real catastrophe for us. Inflation is over 11%, food prices up 19% in the last year, and energy prices up 40%.

These aren't just numbers for us, they mean we are worrying about every bill that comes through our doors, we have to limit simple purchases like school uniforms and shoes, and luxuries are a thing of the past.

We have taken the difficult decision to vote for strike action because Canenco are offering a below inflation pay rise which does not deliver a pay rise anywhere near what we deserve.

We the workforce and our union, the GMB, have been patient, we have tried to reach a negotiated settlement and have compromised on our original pay claim of 30%. But following ACAS talks yesterday we are no closer to reaching a resolution with no additional money was put on the table.

We are aware that you have recently taken control of the council. However, we need action on our pay claim immediately.

Canterbury Council are Canenco's only customer, the only way this dispute will be settled is by Canterbury Council contributing additional money to fund an improved offer and avert strike action.

Recent settlements have been found at other councils, for example Dover and Folkestone, and it is perfectly possible for this dispute to be resolved but it requires a significantly improved pay offer.

If that offer is not forthcoming on Tuesday when we return to ACAS talks then we will have no other option but to take sustained strike action. This will have a serious impact on the city we all love over its busiest period, but we will be left with no choice. We and our families deserve more.

We urge you to work with Canenco to ensure an offer acceptable to GMB members is put on the table next week to draw this dispute to a close.

Thank you,

GMB members at Canenco

GMB, BRITAIN'S GENERAL UNION

Regional Secretary: **Justin Bowden** General Secretary: **Gary Smith**
COOPER HOUSE, 205 HOOK ROAD, CHESSINGTON, SURREY KT9 1EA
TEL: 020 8397 8881 FAX: 020 8397 1588
Email: info@gmb.org.uk Website: gmb-southern.org.uk

UNIONLINE
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM
0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk