

Thurrock Council caretakers protest over 'disrespectful' downgrading plans



Thurrock Council caretakers are today [Thursday 9 April] staging a protest over a proposal by the council to downgrade their roles.

The workers, who are represented by GMB Union, are furious about the council's plans to downgrade around 50 caretaker roles by one band, which could result in average salary reductions of around £2,000.



The caretakers involved clean and maintain properties across the council's housing estate, including removing graffiti, clearing litter, and ensuring fire, health, and safety measures are in place.

The council is under intense financial pressure after a series of failed solar farm investments, with estimated debts of £1.4 billion.

A caretaker and GMB member said:

"After years of loyal service as a caretaker, supporting residents and keeping estates safe, I'm now being told my role is being downgraded and my wages cut.

"It's not just a financial blow, it's a message that our work doesn't matter.

"Caretakers are being rebranded as 'cleaners' to justify paying us less, even though the responsibilities haven't changed.

"It's unfair, it's disrespectful, and it shows a total disregard for the people who keep these estates running every day."

Gavin Davies, GMB Senior Organiser, said:

"Our caretaker members do a vital job, keeping Thurrock's housing clean and safe for residents.

"The council's plan to downgrade their roles is an attempt to save money at the expense of frontline workers.

"Our members are not responsible for the council's financial mismanagement, and they shouldn't be made to pick up the tab."

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Member requiring help?

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