



July 2020 - read more at [www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/jubileesouth](http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/jubileesouth)

## Covid-19 Charter sets out RMT 'lines in the sand'

We are organising to defend jobs and workplace safety



The RMT London Transport Region has drawn up a Covid-19 charter listing our demands and 'lines in the sand' in order to bring together the issues and needs most important to members across the Tube, and to form a backbone for our organising activities.

The charter was drawn up by reps and officials in all grades across London Underground.

The charter explains that in every sector of the economy workers and their trade unions should be involved in risk assessing all types of work in each workplace before they are required to return to work. Workplaces should only be re-opened when the workforce agrees it is safe to do so. London Underground and TfL must be able to assure us that different phases of lifting lockdown can be achieved without forcing usage above 13% of capacity, which is the maximum we can carry while maintaining social distancing.

The level of services provided and number of passengers using the tube must be kept under constant review in light of any moves in the levels of Covid 19 infections and the R number. The ability of passengers as well

as staff to socially distance must be part of this process, which must include trade union safety reps as well as management.

Some of the specific demands in the charter include:

- All individual tasks must be risk assessed involving RMT safety reps.
- Risks to BAME members must be assessed for their specific role and location and acted on.
- All staff at additional risk should continue to be accommodated away from the workplace. No-one in this category should be forced to work.
- Social distancing rosters and reduced staffing levels should be implemented as widely as possible and be regularly reviewed by reps. Any changes to staffing levels should be by agreement. Where reps agree it is safe and necessary to do so, temporary staffing levels should be increased where the service level demands it.
- Train operator duties must be redesigned with input from RMT safety reps to ensure social distancing, minimise risk and address the various concerns of train operators.
- Pay must be restored to all who refused to work because of fears for safety. The proper refusal to work process must be followed.

You can read the full charter on the RMT London Calling website at:

[www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/covid-19-charter](http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/covid-19-charter)

Covid 19 is a threat to the health and also economic security of all of us across the Tube. Therefore we all need to be in the same union so we can stand together and fight for a safe Tube and to protect jobs and conditions. There is only one union that represents all Tube workers in all grades, the RMT. Join by searching online for 'Join RMT union'.

### Night Tube Drivers' Secondment Extended

The secondment of Night Tube drivers to full time has been extended by 12 weeks.

Night Tube has been suspended until at least March 2021 which has resulted in a reduction in numbers at some depots. The RMT has ensured NT drivers are protected, with those displaced moved to a full time positions and a guarantee that NT numbers will be put back to what they were once Night Tube restarts.

Jubilee South branch has discussed the restriction which keeps seconded T023 drivers on NT hours and plans to continue this discussion at the next branch meeting.

The RMT is disappointed that ASLEF continues to attack the RMT when putting out propaganda for NT drivers. This is detrimental to all of us, particularly those in that grade. We need to stand together as workers to defend ourselves from management attacks. - [rmt.org.uk/join](http://rmt.org.uk/join)

Jubilee South branch is now fortnightly. Join us on pay day and two weeks later, usually 1600 for a virtual meeting. Ask your rep or Organiser Eamonn Lynch for details - 07578769943 / [eamonnlynchrmt@outlook.com](mailto:eamonnlynchrmt@outlook.com)

# Jubilee South branch news

## Jubilee South branch stands in solidarity with striking Tower Hamlets council workers

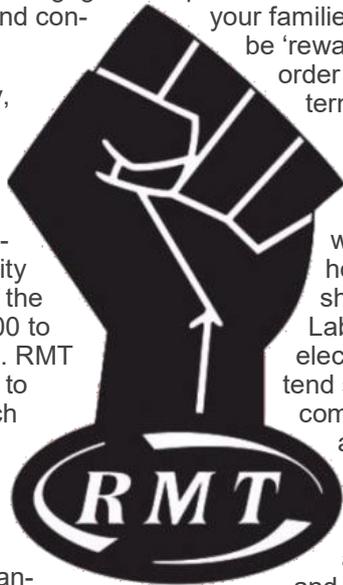
Council workers in the east London borough of Tower Hamlets are due to strike on 3, 6, and 7 July, against their bosses' plans to dismiss thousands of workers and re-engage them on worse terms and conditions.

At its meeting on 1 July, RMT Jubilee South branch, which organises workers at Canary Wharf station, in the borough of Tower Hamlets, launched a solidarity statement in support of the strike, and donated £200 to the workers' strike fund. RMT activists are organising to secure additional branch and individual signatories to the statement.

### The statement

As an RMT branch organising Tube workers in workplaces in Tower Hamlets, we stand in full solidarity with Tower Hamlets Unison members in their fight to defend their terms and conditions, and to maintain the services they provide to the borough.

Like us on London Underground, as key workers you have continued to provide essential services all through the Covid crisis at great personal risk to yourselves and your families, but now you are to be 'rewarded' with the sack in order to impose inferior terms and conditions.



It is a disgrace that a Labour Council, whose leaders are working safely from home during Covid, should act in this way. Labour Councils are elected to defend and extend social provision in our communities, and TH is already one of the most deprived, with a large BAME community that has been among the hardest hit, and the council should be

part of the resistance to central government cuts, not the active accomplice.

Full solidarity to the workers on strike. See you on the picket lines.

## TFL Funding Rally

Join the joint union 'TfL Funding Rally' at 6pm on the 15th of July on Zoom.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive financial challenges for Transport for London but TfL workers should not have to pay for the coronavirus crisis!

### TRADE UNIONS DEMAND:

- > No cuts to services.
- > Full restoration of central government funding
- > No job cuts and no deterioration in terms and conditions

Speakers at the rally will include:

**Paula Peters** - DPAC (Disabled People Against Cuts), **Steve Hedley** - RMT Assistant General Secretary, **Lorraine Ward** - Organising Director, TSSA, **Finn Brennan** - ASLEF District Organiser and many more.

You can get more details on the RMT London Calling website including the link to join the rally. Sign up now.



## Bring cleaners in house and give them free travel

RMT continues to push for free travel for ABM cleaners on the Tube and for them to ultimately be directly employed by London Underground.

Why should the people who clean the dirt on our trains have to pay to travel to work to do so? As Tube workers we should all have the same right to free travel, particularly at a time like this when cleaners are keeping us safe from coronavirus.

In a recent press release the RMT called on new Commissioner Andy Byford to put a stop to this shameful injustice by giving London's heroic Underground cleaners the same TfL travel pass that he and the Mayor are entitled to.

In another article, the RMT highlighted how London Mayor Sadiq Khan has praised the "amazing job in these extraordinarily difficult times" by tube cleaners and thanked them for their "commitment and service to our city." However, the article explains the Mayor continues to refuse cleaners free travel.

## ABM furlough and leave

ABM has compelled tube cleaners to take annual leave during their Furlough period. This is despite the rules of the government's furlough scheme allowing a maximum of four weeks leave to be carried forward over the next two years when it has "not been reasonably practicable for the worker to have taken the annual leave due to COVID-19". With the restrictions on public life at present and the near impossibility of enjoying annual leave in the usual manner, that ABM should be compelling members to take annual leave is unacceptable.

Strong objections were made to ABM over this matter by our Regional Organiser. If you have had an issue at ABM come along to branch or tell your workplace rep. All cleaners are invited to join the RMT and come along to Jubilee South branch. We are ready to organise with you to fight for a fair deal.

- Search online for 'Join RMT union.'