

On behalf of: Claimant  
By: Anthony Cox  
No: Second  
Exhibit: AC2  
Date: 15 May 2026

**KB-2026-BHM-000043**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**KING'S BENCH DIVISION**

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY**

BETWEEN:

**(1) BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

Claimant

- and -

**(1) PERSONS UNKNOWN**


Defendant

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**EXHIBIT OF ANTHONY COX**

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This is the exhibit marked "**AC2**" in the witness statement of **ANTHONY COX** dated this 15 May 2026.

Signed by:  
  
Signed ..... 941D09FAB4FF44Z.....

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What we know about crucial Birmingham Council talks as Reform 'unable to take control'



*What we know about crucial Birmingham Council talks as Reform 'unable to take control'*

birminghammail.co.uk

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**Section:** MIDLANDS NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 603 words

**Byline:** By, Alexander Brock

**Highlight:** Reform said other Birmingham groups had "made it clear that they refuse to work with us"

## Body

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Reform's leader on *Birmingham City Council* has today accepted his party are "unable to form an administration".

Issuing a statement earlier this morning, Councillor Jex Parkin said other groups on the council had "made it clear that they refuse to work with us".

Talks will be taking place in the coming days to see if a coalition can be formed after the dramatic local election results meant no party was left having overall control of the council.

Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have already set out their position while Coun Parkin has said that Reform are committed to being a "constructive opposition" going forwards.

Here's a summary of what party leaders in Birmingham have said so far.

### Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats said over the weekend that that they will present an offer to "other political groups and like-minded independents on the council to work together".

Their leader Roger Harmer said on Sunday: "Our proposal is to set out a vision for the city and a supporting delivery plan.

"For the past few years, we have been known for financial problems and a failure to collect the bins, but that should not define our city.

## What we know about crucial Birmingham Council talks as Reform 'unable to take control'

"We need to move Birmingham forward as place of initiative, enterprise and culture, that attracts people with talent."

### Conservative Party

In their own statement on Monday, the Conservatives in Birmingham set out their priorities for any discussion on a new administration to run Birmingham Council.

"With no party even 50 per cent of the way to having a majority, it is clear that Birmingham desperately needs change," a spokesperson for the party said. "We stand ready to work with those willing to put the city first."

Coun Robert Alden, Tory group leader, said: "Birmingham has spoken and the result is a council with no one near control.

"But the issues facing Birmingham remain. A council in financial distress, a bin strike that has been running for 17 months, and a range of issues from badly run exempt accommodation to continuing equal pay issues.

"The onus is now on all elected councillors to use their mandate for their area to find where there is a way to produce a stable administration to finally clean up Birmingham and the city council."

### Reform UK

"The results in Birmingham are historic," Coun Jex Parkin said. "From a standing start, Reform UK is now the largest party on Birmingham City Council.

"Voters are clearly demanding radical change.

"Although we are the largest party, other groups have made it clear that they refuse to work with us, meaning there is no viable route for Reform to take control of the council."

He continued: "Given that Birmingham has also clearly elected a left-wing majority, we have accepted that we will unfortunately be unable to form an administration.

"We are committed to being a constructive opposition, ensuring the new leadership is effectively scrutinised in order to get our city back on track."

Below is the new political makeup of the council - 51 seats were needed for a majority.

	Reform UK - 23	Green Party - 19	Labour
- 17	Conservative - 16	Independents - 13	Liberal Democrats - 12
Workers Party - 1			

## Classification

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What we know about crucial Birmingham Council talks as Reform 'unable to take control'

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# Bin strike deal pledges from every party that could run Birmingham City Council

## Birmingham City Council has been left in limbo after voters backed a rainbow of parties and groups. This is what they all say about ending the bin strike

Every party hoping to play a part in running Birmingham City Council has pledged a first priority will be to end the bin strike.

Article continues below

Reform UK, the Greens, Labour, Conservatives, [Liberal Democrats](#) and Independent groups will spend the next few days jostling for position and making deals in a bid to form a coalition that can lead the city for the next four years after none were given a mandate to run the city on their own.

But in the meantime, the city's bins crisis rolls on. It's now been more than 17 months since bin worker went out on strike - first on occasional days, then all out - and there has been no deal made to end it. Recycling has not been collected from the kerbside for more than a year. The strike has also run up a massive council bill for agency staff and other contingency measures.

**READ MORE:** [Birmingham's hung 'rainbow' council after Labour election collapse](#)

Residents want to know what each party will do to end it - and when.

We have looked at their recent pronouncements. This is where they stand.

**Labour Party** : Just ahead of the election, in a move dismissed by rivals as a political stunt, Labour announced they had reached an 'agreement' with Unite the union that would end the strike if Labour was to come to power or, critically, 'be part of a coalition'. The 'deal' has no legal basis as yet as it would require the backing of new councillors, council officials, commissioners and auditors to ensure it does not breach strict equal pay concerns. But the party is adamant the deal works and is cost effective.

**Reform UK:** Jex Parkin, its newly elected councillor for Kingstanding, represented the party at the BirminghamLive pre election hustings last month. He said the impact of the strike was a "sad indictment on the second city" and that his party would ensure it had the "right people" in any negotiations, such as business leaders. He also said the critical issue was to 'bridge the legal gap in advice being received' by the council and the union Unite.

Following Labour's 'deal' announcement, the party added it had been in its own discussions with Unite and would work urgently to end the strike if it came into power.

**Green Party:** The long dispute has been 'scandalous' for the city, Greens local leader Julien Pritchard has said. His party would get 'back round the table as soon as possible' with Unite.

Article continues below

**Conservatives:** Robert Alden had argued at the BirminghamLive hustings that the first step to ending the strike was the 'people at the top of the council getting in with the people from the top of the union and setting the red lines' before negotiators debate those points. The council's leadership would then be brought back into the conversation to 'unlock logjams'. He had dismissed the Labour 'deal' as a stunt.

**Liberal Democrats:** Its leader Roger Harmer had described negotiations ending last July as "appalling". He pledged that the Lib Dems would get a deal done.

**Independents:** Nosheen Khalid, new councillor for Alum Rock, told the BirminghamLive hustings that it was 'absolutely shameful' that a deal had not been done. She said the strike could be "easily resolved through dialogue". Shakeel Afsar, not a candidate but representing pro-Palestine independents, said striking bin men just want to "be able to feed their families" and added: "We do need to negotiate, we do need to look at legal but we also need to look at the sheer incompetence in terms of how we got to this place in the first place".

Article continues below

**You can view the hustings in full on BirminghamLive's youtube channel here.**

The bins strike dispute was initially sparked by the loss of the Waste Recycling and Collection Officer role on its fleet of bin trucks, and later escalated when drivers were also told their job was being downgraded and pay cut as part of a 'transformation' programme.

