

ourCity's NOT for sale

**PUBLIC
WORKS:**

KEEP EDINBURGH PUBLIC!

UNISON
Edinburgh

Stop them privatising Edinburgh's services

As the City of Edinburgh Council charges headlong into privatisation of vital local services, we are asking the people of Edinburgh to join us in fighting for Edinburgh's services and Edinburgh's jobs.

Our members, after years of delivering efficiencies, are determined to show that they can and will deliver the best services for Scotland's capital.

But despite staff winning a Government Business award for saving money and a host of other awards, they are not being given the chance.

A host of private companies are desperate to get their hands on our services. Yet there is no evidence that privatisation or joint ventures will deliver any savings or improvements.

‘Arms length companies are not as open or accountable as local councils’

Lib Dem Edinburgh Manifesto

● *Three out of five of the companies known to be shortlisted for the facilities contract and the parent company of one shortlisted for the environment contract were fined a total of £40 million by the Office of Fair Trading in 2009 for ‘illegal bid-rigging’.* (www.of.t.gov.uk/news-and-updates/press/2009/114-09)

● Of the 18 ‘comparable’ councils used to justify the outsourcing, few are comparable in any way with the capital and one is the smallest metropolitan borough in England. **See over**

Want to help? check out www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk

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- In most of the 18 contracts, there is **no evidence of any benefits** being achieved.

- At least one has been severely criticised on quality, others have lost money and services have had to be brought back in house.

- Even the Audit Commission has warned about such ventures and says councils should consider 'reforming in-house provision'.

But if all that is not enough, just ask the obvious question.

If the council provides services without having to make a profit, *how can a private company save money and make a profit on top?*

With shareholders and big executives to pay, how can they do it cheaper?

Simple. By cutting quality. By cutting the service. By cutting your wages and conditions.

Or - as other councils have discovered - by charging service

users more!

So your tax pays for profits instead of services.

You can help Keep Edinburgh Public and accountable to you.

- Write or email to your councillor asking them if they can justify their figures. **Do they even know the figures?**

- Tell them you want to hold them directly accountable for Edinburgh's services, not through private companies. Even the Lib Dem's own manifesto said, "*Arms length companies are not as open or accountable as local councils*"

- Tell them you don't want Edinburgh's jobs and services sold off to the lowest bidder. Once services are in the hands of big companies, everyone's ability to call them to account reduces.

Did someone mention the trams?

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