

ourCity's NOT for sale

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AGAINST CUTS AND PRIVATISATION

UNISON
Edinburgh

What's Happening?

Edinburgh City Council is set to implement the largest privatisation of council services in Scottish History. In what they call Alternative Business Models (ABM), private companies will run everything from street cleaning to housing benefit. Your city is up for sale. **You need to act NOW!**

Why UNISON is opposed to privatisation?

We believe the history of privatisation tells us all we need to know - poor quality services, dirty schools and hospitals, neglect of the elderly, hospital infections, job losses, pay cuts etc.

- We believe in meeting public need rather than private greed.
- We believe taxes are gathered to deliver services and protect the vulnerable, not to pay profits to private companies or dividends to shareholders.
- We believe that services should be under local democratic control. You should be able to influence the services you receive by visiting your councillor.

Private companies are remote and unaccountable - as the Lib Dems said in their manifesto at the last council election!

What is the Process?

There are three massive contracts up for grabs. The council plan to select companies for two contracts at full council in August. This is ridiculously premature - even if you believe in privatisation. The process has not been conducted properly.



*I remember privatisation.
All I got was a pay cut
and a superbug infection!*

There has been no public consultation on the changes to service delivery - you will not recognise some services after privatisation.

The council has not engaged disabled people in discussion about access to the new services as required by law.

There has been no assessment of sustainability issues to ensure that the private companies protect the environment and develop "greener" ways to deliver services and reduce carbon emissions.

The council claim privatisation will save money but the business case is not available for public scrutiny.

This has all the hallmarks of a second Tram Fiasco.

www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk/citynotforsale

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No democratic control

More key facts you need to know:

Neither the Liberal Democrats or the SNP included a commitment to massive privatisation in their last election manifesto - they have no mandate for this sell-off.

In fact the Lib Dems promised to roll back the tide of arms length companies running council services to enhance democratic control! This begs the question, "who is driving the privatisation agenda?"

The final shortlist includes two companies connected to multi-million pound fines for price rigging and contract fixing. But when the process started the council officials withheld that information from elected members. Given the cost of the Tram Fiasco, can we afford to get trapped in another multi-million pound dispute with private contractors?

Two companies were allowed to participate in the privatisation process despite the fact the council caught them withholding information about convictions arising from fatal workplace accidents.

One company was caught, reprimanded and caught again within the space of a few months. And still they were allowed to stay in the bidding process. Once again, senior officials made the decision to overlook the significance of these tragic deaths without informing elected members.

Crucial Questions!

Questions to put your councillor on the spot:

1. When will the council consult with the people of Edinburgh on all these issues?
2. How will services change? Will I have a say on the options for change?
3. What impact will privatisation have on service quality?
4. Will complaining about a service to councillors have any effect on the behaviour of the contractor?
5. How will the private companies reduce carbon emissions and improve the environment?
6. How will the companies ensure equal access to services regardless of age, disability, race or gender?
7. When will the council do an environmental assessment?
8. Will I still be able to talk to Council staff or will my contact be through computerised voice recognition and the internet?
9. What is the evidence that privatisation of this type has succeeded elsewhere?
10. What lessons have been learned from the Tram project? And from the failed Care and Support tendering exercise?

- Add your voice to our e-petition - www.ipetitions.com/petition/ourcitynotforsale/
- Join our facebook group www.facebook.com/unison.edinburgh
- Follow us on Twitter @unisonedin
- Visit the website at www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk and log your question there

LEARN THE LESSON OF THE TRAMS - NO MORE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS!