

ourCity's NOT for sale

JOINT UNION AND COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TO KEEP EDINBURGH PUBLIC!



NOV 24 - REJECT PRIVATISATION BACK THE IN-HOUSE OPTION

On Thursday 24 November Edinburgh Council will decide on proposals to privatise its environmental services - including bin collections, recycling, street cleaning and parks.

People in Edinburgh don't want privatisation. Even the Council's own pollsters, MORI, found that. Yet Council managers press on with their privatisation plans.

They propose to set up a massive seven-year contract with Lancashire-based Enterprise Enterprise plc, a loss making contractor whose parent company is reported to be laden with debt and recently had to shed jobs. This is the Council which made such a mess of its contracts for the trams

The Council's comparison of Enterprise's bid with the public sector option of improving services in-house is clearly biased:

- private bidders will not allow new employees to join the Lothian pension fund. This ought to be impossible under the government-STUC PPP protocol - which John Swinney told the parliament is still in place.
- Enterprise aims to save money through 'co-

mingling' of recycling materials. This is a cheap, controversial and probably ineffective method whereas the in-house bid sticks with the methods approved by government.

- Enterprise will bring a much greater number of job losses. They will mean compulsory redundancies and the danger of worsening industrial relations.

UNISON has produced a briefing for councillors showing that if the private bid and in-house options were compared like with like, the in-house option would save £20.5 million more. The figures come from calculations if issues like pensions, recycling and jobs were fairly compared.

These points have been ignored by the Council so far. As a result the Enterprise bid appears to offer higher savings. But the Council should make the decision on the grounds of Best Value - the best option for Edinburgh taking all factors into account, not just price.

The plan to downgrade recycling efforts, dismiss workers and close the pension scheme will have a damaging social, economic and environmental impact and may be unlawful.

**THE IN-HOUSE OPTION IS BEST VALUE - CHUCK OUT
THE PRIVATEERS**

**LOBBY THE COUNCIL 8.30 - 10.00am on Thursday 24
November, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh**

Further information: Privatisation of two more large chunks of Council services is due to be considered on 22 December - a date for your diary

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

WORKING FOR YOU

Back Edinburgh's workers

KEEP EDINBURGH PUBLIC



Edinburgh's bin collectors, street cleaners and grounds maintenance workers have backed a programme to save citizens more than £40 million over seven years.

And if you compare like with like on recycling, pensions and jobs, the in-house option could save over £20 million more than the private bid.

The plan will mean a cleaner city with better recycling. It will make Edinburgh a greener place. Most of all, it will keep your services owned by you and accountable to you.

It hasn't been easy. Hard decisions have had to be made. The long running dispute has been settled and staff have demanded a new culture of respect and openness.

This all because staff are committed to public service rather than private profit.

The in-house bid is realistic. It does not make rash promises. And if changes are needed, the Council can make them right away - they won't have to negotiate with (and probably pay more to) a private contractor.

Your own Edinburgh workers have a



programme that's realistic, fair and efficient.

Support them by telling your councillor **BEFORE 24 NOVEMBER** to oppose privatisation and let the in-house team get on with the job!

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