

ourCity's NOT for sale

PUBLIC WORKS:

There is a Better Way...



Speak up for your services Stop privatisation

Edinburgh's local services face meltdown as the human cost of £90 million in cuts starts to emerge.

Whole services are to disappear. Services for the elderly, community safety, cleansing... the list is almost endless - along with the jobs of thousands of local workers who deliver these services.

On top of that, the Council wants to privatise large chunks of council services. Five big contracts are up for sale, including maintaining parks and Princes Street Gardens, customer contact, revenue and benefits, catering, cleaning and cleansing - and that's just the start.

The trams fiasco shows what can happen when you contract services out to private companies. Services don't get delivered on time, if at all, and it ends up costing more.

Cuts and privatisation myths See over.....

Five reasons to defend public services

- 1 The council says that this will save them money yet there is no solid evidence, just wishful thinking. Many privatisation projects have failed to deliver any savings.
- 2 Staff are constantly working to improve in-house services. Council workers recently won a government award for saving money.
- 3 Private companies make their profits by cutting quality, cutting the service and cutting the wages of the staff who deliver that service.
- 4 The council report recommending the privatisation was a stitch up. It used completely different types of councils to Edinburgh as comparisons. Several of the shortlisted companies have been fined for "illegal bid rigging".
- 5 The tragedy of the trams.

There is a Better Way

Contractor goes bust! One of Britain's largest private contractors delivering public services is called Connaught. It just went bust. If that happened here we could end up with no services being delivered.

Just before collapsing Connaught applied for two contracts in Edinburgh and passed the council's financial health check!

UNISON says.....

In most of the 18 contracts there is no evidence of any benefits being achieved for the citizens of Edinburgh. Shareholders and big executives should not profit from our public services. *Our City's Not For Sale.*

What you can do

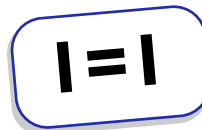
Find out more. Go to www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk Sign the petition and sign up to the campaign. Write to your local councillor or better yet go and see them. The Lib Dems own manifesto said "Arms length companies are not as open or accountable as local councils".

Why not join us in UNISON?
UNISON Direct 0845 355 0845
Edinburgh UNISON
0131 220 5655



Myths about the 'crisis'

"Cutting public services will boost the private sector" WRONG



For every one job cut in the public sector at least one is lost in the private sector. (*Treasury report Guardian 29 June*) Cuts don't

just damage essential services, they damage the whole economy.



About 70p of each £1 a public service worker earns is spent in their own

community. Pay cuts and job losses will damage local businesses and local jobs.

"The national debt has never been higher... we can't afford public services" WRONG



The national debt was four times higher in 1948 but the government - with

Nye Bevan (left) - could still afford to introduce the NHS, the Welfare State and a huge house building programme! www.ukpublicspending.co.uk

"We're all in this together" WRONG

The poorest families will be hit five times worse than top earners by government cuts (*Institute for Fiscal Studies August 2010*). Meanwhile bankers go on collecting bonuses, top businesses go on paying no corporation tax and billions are lost through tax avoidance by the very rich.

THE CUTS ARE POLITICALLY NOT FINANCIALLY DRIVEN

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

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