

## Agenda Item No: 17(b)



**Revised version of the Notice of Motion which has been received from Councillor Murray, the original of which is set out under Agenda item No 17(b) on the Annual Council Agenda (the revised text is shown below in italics):**

### **"Accountability and Transparency**

#### **The Council notes that:**

1. Across the country, many public services have been outsourced to private sector providers. Local government outsourcing doubled under the last parliament. (1)
2. Outsourcing has often failed to deliver the expected savings to the taxpayer, and failed to lead to better service provision. In-house provision can provide better value for money and more flexibility at a time of severe budget cuts. (2)
3. Research by the independent campaign group We Own It shows that the public have very little trust in outsourcing companies. They want to see more transparency and accountability over outsourcing contracts, and they want public ownership to be the default for running services. (3)

#### **The Council believes that:**

1. Transparency is needed in the provision of public services. Public service contracts and performance and financial data of providers should be made available *wherever that is lawful and possible*. Freedom of Information legislation should apply to private companies running public services.
2. Accountability is needed in the provision of public services. The public must be consulted about what they want from their services, and before any outsourcing or privatisation. They should have a right to *call on the council to*

*terminate a contract where a contractor is not complying with the contract or the service standards set out in it.*

3. People, not profit, need to be the priority in public service delivery. Public ownership should be the default, so a public interest case must be made for any outsourcing or privatisation. *Where the outsourcing of service provision is a possibility, then so far as is feasible an in-house comparator should be used to assess best value and an explanation given where this is not done.* Social value requirements must be a priority whenever contracts are awarded, *providing those requirements do not infringe EU procurement law.*

### **The Council resolves to:**

1. Support the We Own It campaign 'Our Services Our Say'. (4)
2. Provide a brief statement explaining what the council is doing in practice to work towards the principles of transparency, accountability and people before profit. This information will be made available through the We Own It website. (See the local authority guidance for suggestions on how the principles above could be translated into public service provision and procurement policy).

### **Notes**

- 1) Financial Times [www.ft.com/content/244f0bd8-eccb-11e4-a81a-00144feab7de](http://www.ft.com/content/244f0bd8-eccb-11e4-a81a-00144feab7de)
- 2) Association for Public Service Excellence [www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/06/On-line-Catalogue201223.pdf](http://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/06/On-line-Catalogue201223.pdf)
- 3) Public opinion about outsourcing <http://weownit.org.uk/privatisation/outsourcing>
- 4) Our Services Our Say campaign <http://weownit.org.uk/public-solutions/our-services-our-say> "