

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

(a) Gary Palmer, Alex Knutson, Sue Beatty and Jo Viner – UNISON & GMB – Integrated Community Equipment Store

“At the P&R meeting in October both staff and unions ask for the consideration of an opportunity of assistance in both the provision of information and assistance in house bid, P&R heard how we requested information which when eventually forth coming proved to be a token summarisation of 12 bullet points not fit for purpose.

P&R voted in favour of an amendment which had been presented to be ruled as correct by the head of law for the council, only to find that when passed concerns from the same head of law has prevented the carrying out of the vote outcome, our arguments remain the same fairness has not been in place so far within this process and we demand that this is done.

Since that time we, and it was a lack of time which council officers went to great pains to point out endangered any bid from the private sector, staff and unions have received no further updates or information which would allow us to proceed with the creating of proposal which might mean ICES staying where everyone who cares about it, uses the service or works within it wants it to stay in the public sector except for the very people we all expected to defend it on our behalf. There may have been legal arguments but the information could have been gathered and issued to allow us the opportunity, but officers have blocked and mislead staff and unions from the start and appear to continue to do so in following their own agenda.

Our case remains the same, there is no evidence that the service can or would improve by this outsourcing, the council dismisses its obligation even as the minor stakeholder in the service provision to the residents and service users of Brighton & Hove by not carrying out a fair and unbiased survey of services users, by not considering the views of staff and public sector employees, who like two other outsourcing options which has resulted in attacks to both the service and staff terms and conditions as in the case of Mears and Mytime active.

We would not expect that the unpredicted surprise of NRS Nottingham Rehab Suppliers being awarded the contract in West Sussex, will mean anything else than detrimental changes to both the service and almost certainly the terms and conditions and working practices of loyal staff.

NRS will certainly be met by the joint unions with a robust defence of its members and in protecting essential services and P&R should be in no doubt that we will jointly use all resources to carry out that defence and to not rule anything type of action out.

Once again we ask that P&R honours its original vote, use any legal avenues in a positive manner and not in preventing what is right in this case. Allow with support from council officers access to resources which will provide staff and unions an even chance to put together a bid which will see services kept in house.”

Gary Palmer (GMB)
Alex Knutson (UNISON)
Sue Beatty (UNISON)
Jo Viner (GMB)