

Minute 84 Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise.
Reasons for Call In.

Failure to consult fully with the public on the way they see this service developing and how they would want to see it run.

Failure to consult adequately with the Parks and Countryside staff.

In the light of the statement by the Deputy Chief Executive on behalf of the administration that they are “committed to regular, open and honest communication with employees and the Trade Unions through a variety of channels” and that they recognise that “only people who work for the authority have the detailed knowledge necessary to make suggestions on how services can continue to be delivered to a high standard with less money,” **an abject and total failure to take proper account of staff representations on ways of saving equivalent amounts of money in house.**

In the light of the above again, **a draconian refusal to allow an in house bid for these services to be considered, on grounds that could potentially rule out any in house bid for any Council services in the future** and deny Council Staff the opportunity they deserve to demonstrate they can run services effectively in the public interest.

Denying access to Labour members to a crucial meeting of the working party which decided to recommend ruling out the in house bid by calling the meeting at short notice in working hours and refusing to change its time despite strong and repeated representations by both Labour members on the working party.

A failure to review all the evidence carefully of a business case which locks the Council into a 10 year contract based on a best case 7.5% saving, in the light of recent information about the scale of cuts in resources to Local Government which may reach 30 to 40%,and **which, given the commitment of this administration to full public consultation, should have formed part of the brief for the Task Force on Living in Wirral without any prior decisions being taken.**

In short, this decision, which will lead to the transfer of the maintenance and administration of Wirral’s parks, gardens, open spaces, crematoria, beach lifeguard services, war memorials and countryside into private hands, was an ideal case for the Administration to demonstrate their genuine commitment to consultation with staff, Trade Unions, service users and the general public. **When the crunch comes, and real decisions are at stake, this administration has failed at every point to consult properly or take account of any views expressed, even in an area of very high public interest**

This demonstrates that their commitment to consultation is a total sham, designed only as a cynical public relations exercise to hide the reality of the devastation that is to come and find ways of blaming the public for the destruction of their own services.