



Unite The Union
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Ref. : JWG/cb

Brussels, 6 May 2015

Dear Kathy, dear Fiona,

I have been informed that the Conservative led Bromley Council in London is seeking to privatise almost all services, reducing its staff from around 4000 to a mere 300-400 while also planning to change the terms and conditions of the workers concerned. Based on the experience of workers and citizens in many European countries we know that this privatisation and contracting out of services will have a negative impact on the quality of the services, reduce workers pay and pensions and in general will make the local communities weaker. Private providers in Bromley have missed performance targets, complaints have been lodged over cleaning of streets and pavements etc.

Workers have already taken action in April when libraries were closed (27 April-30 April) and parks not available. (5 May). Tomorrow will be a general strike of all workers concerned and with passenger and care services following in mid-May.

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Services Unions sends its solidarity greetings to the workers out on strike 7th May. Our 8 million members represented in their 265 trade unions from all European countries know what privatisation does to pay and conditions and quality of the services provided. Europe's trade unions are standing up for quality service, for investment and an end to austerity. The fact that the facility time has been withdrawn from the Unite trade union representative (Kathy Smith) underlines that these proposed changes are part of an ideological agenda attacking working women and men and our communities, moving public funds to companies providing corporate welfare and have nothing to do with improving quality and investment.

Europe's public service unions stand with you in saying no to austerity, no to the privatisation of public services. We are with you in support of investment in quality public services, decent pay and conditions and respect for trade union representatives.

In Solidarity,

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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