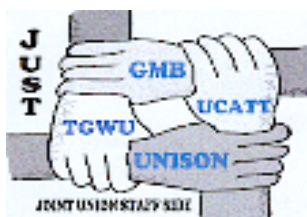


Southwark
JOINT UNION Staff Side



C/o 177-179 Walworth Road.
London SE17 1RW

Chair: Roy Fielding – GMB
Secretary: Kym Hamilton- UNISON
Vice Chair- Alan Milne TGWU
Vice- Secretary – Tony O'brien -
UCATT

Tuesday, 14 December 2004

To The Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Re: Passenger Services Home to School Contract -Olympic.

The Trade Unions wish to raise their concerns with the Committee in respect of the decision to sanction the award of the Passenger Services Home to School Contract to Olympic.

This contract is being let by CEA and is currently carried out by Environment and Leisure Services.

The Trade Unions met with Olympic on 2nd December 2005 it quickly became apparent that Olympic do not appear to have adequate resources now, nor does it seem likely that adequate resources will be in place by 1st April 2005 to run the service efficiently.

The conclusions that have been reached by the Trade Union have been drawn from discussions that took place with Olympic at this initial consultation meeting

Olympic were unable to identify where the vehicles would be kept overnight and although they stated that they were looking for premises they could not identify where these premises were, or were likely to be situated.

The responses from Olympic were vague. Olympic then stated that they would be able to hire the current depot facilities on a week-by-week basis from Southwark Council. The Trade Unions are aware that the current depot that is facilitated by Environment and Leisure will not be available after 31st March 2005, this was confirmed by management representatives at the meeting .

Olympic then added that the drivers would take the vehicles home with them, clearly this arrangement would not be acceptable to the Trade Unions as the added responsibility on the drivers to find a suitable, safe and secure parking space overnight and also at weekends would be untenable. It is clear that no consideration has been given to the facilitating the basic maintenance checks that each vehicle should undergo each day.

Olympic seemed totally oblivious to the difficulties that this arrangement would cause the drivers. They also seemed oblivious to the additional dangers of this arrangement in respect of the vehicles being vandalised, and what impact this may have on the service user as many of the vehicles have wheelchair lifts and other equipment.

Olympic had also not considered the effect this would have if a driver were sick.

Olympic however tried to counter the Trade Union concerns by stating that the drivers, as a perk would be able to use the vehicles at weekend for their own purposes The Trade Unions did not view this as acceptable.

Olympic also referred to the fact that they would be providing a hospital service in between the home to school operations with the same vehicles. The Trade Unions are concerned that that this arrangement would place a lot of pressure on their members in meeting time constraints in terms finishing the hospital service to resume the school service. The Trade Unions are extremely concerned that there could be times when hospital clients are transported with the children, and believe it would put children at risk.

It was also clear that there has not been any credible thought given to a base for the staff who are transferring. The admin worker has no identified place of work after 31st March 2005. There has not been any thought of where staff would report into generally.

The Trade Unions are asking the Scrutiny Committee to reconsider the award of the contract, obviously we have not had sight of the contract however there seems to be some glaringly obvious omissions that will almost certainly have an impact not only on the staff that are transferred from Southwark Council but also on the ability of Olympic to run a safe and secure service on behalf of the council.

Yours Sincerely

Kym Hamilton

Joint Union Staff Side Secretary

Cc. Roy Fielding GMB, John Mulrenan UNISON. Tony O'Brien. UCATT
Alan Milne.TGWU.

Cllr. Nicholas Stanton