

(i) Notice of Motion received from Councillor J Owen:-

Derbyshire County Council is deeply concerned by revelations that major construction companies have been involved in “blacklisting” in order to deny employment to workers who have engaged in trade union activity, or have reported breaches of health and safety.

The Information Commissioners’ Office (ICO) found that a blacklist of over 3,200 individual workers was maintained, traded for profit and used to vet individuals and deny people employment for being a member of a trade union, or for having raised health and safety concerns. This blacklist was used by over 40 construction companies and included information about workers’ personal relationships, trade union activity and employment history.

Blacklisting has devastating effects, including lengthy periods of unemployment and financial hardship for the person blacklisted and their dependents. Blacklisting has been unlawful since the beginning of 2010, with legislation being put in place to prohibit its use.

The ICO list of companies which used the blacklist service includes companies contracted by Derbyshire County Council. The use of blacklists is unacceptable, unlawful and cannot be condoned, having a negative impact on the access to employment and the rights of workers in Derbyshire and throughout the country.

The Council resolves, wherever lawful to do so, to:

- Request that the Authority updates its tender documentation and commercial questionnaire to explicitly mention ‘blacklisting’ activity.
- Require companies tendering for contracts with Derbyshire County Council to demonstrate that they are not using blacklists.
- Require companies tendering for Council contracts to demonstrate that they have processes in place to encourage the reporting, by their employees, of workplace concerns, particularly in respect of health, safety and welfare.
- Exclude companies involved in the blacklisting of workers from securing Council contracts.
- Seek to not renew existing contracts if the Authority believes a contractor has been blacklisting workers, until a time when all related disputes are resolved and it is clearly proven that fair and transparent recruitment process have been put in place.
- Examine existing contracts with any of the companies listed by the ICO and ask for reassurances that the company uses no form of blacklisting to inform their employment decisions.

The Council declares its support for campaigns by the GMB, Unite and other trade unions to end the scandalous practice of blacklisting.

(ii) Notice of Motion received from Councillor W Major:-

This Council accords respite care and the provision of half day and full day breaks for carers a high priority and will protect the funding it receives in the budget.

(iii) Notice of Motion received from Councillor A I Lewer:-

This Council resolves only to waive standing orders when awarding contracts in circumstances that are exceptional and not for political or other inappropriate reasons.