CITY COUNCIL

22 April 2013

MOTION ON NOTICE

Construction Industry Blacklisting

A number of construction companies have been challenged about supporting the existence of and subscribing to unlawful construction industry 'blacklists', which detail covertly gathered information on construction trade unionism, militant tendencies, poor timekeeping, trouble making, etc. Blacklisting is an unacceptable practice and cannot be condoned. The GMB union is leading a national campaign aimed at forcing those who have been involved in blacklisting to apologise to those who have been affected by it.

It is understood that the construction industry blacklist was collated by the Consulting Association (a private consultancy) and was then provided at a cost to construction companies as they sought to recruit/avoid new workers. The Information Commissioner has investigated and taken action against the Consulting Association for this practice. Furthermore, the Information Commissioner has taken enforcement action against a number of construction companies based on the evidence recovered from the Consulting Association.

Owing to the concentration of construction activity in and around large cities, many of those alleged to have been discriminated against live in the country's major cities, and this practice may have disadvantaged residents of Plymouth.

Given the potential impact on residents of the Plymouth area, this Council –
  (a) deplores the use of unlawful blacklisting;
  (b) supports the GMB campaign;
  (c) agrees to amend the councils tender documentation for construction projects, which will request bidders to confirm that they do not subscribe to the use of unlawful construction industry 'blacklists' and exclude tenderers who use such blacklists, and further, will terminate the contract where the contractor is subsequently found to have used such blacklists.
  (d) will encourage its partners to take similar measures with regard to their suppliers

Proposed by Councillor Evans

Seconded by Councillor Peter Smith