

DA protests as Bay council votes to outlaw labour brokers, take on contracted staff

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POLITICAL EDITOR

NELSON Mandela Bay is to outlaw the use of labour brokers.

At yesterday's council meeting, a resolution, in which labour brokers were described as "scavengers", was adopted that council "agreed in principle to do away with labour brokers". The DA recorded its objection to the resolution.

The council also agreed that staff who met the criteria for placement would be employed subject to the availability of funds. Those who did not qualify should be retained on a contract basis "so as not to negatively impact on service delivery".

The council was informed that the 2009/10 operating budget did not contain any specific budgetary provision for the additional costs associated with placing workers hired through brokers. Executive directors were required to identify temporary assistance budgetary provisions and funded vacancies that could be used.

Chief financial officer Kevin Jacoby warned that should this not be possible, "further property and tariff increases will have to be considered".

These increases, he said, "will be in addition to the usual annual tariff adjustments, anticipated to be 8% for 2010/11".

Jacoby said R5,2-million had been pledged for the 77 employees in public health from the critical vacancies budget provision. The rest would be carried as temporary assistants.