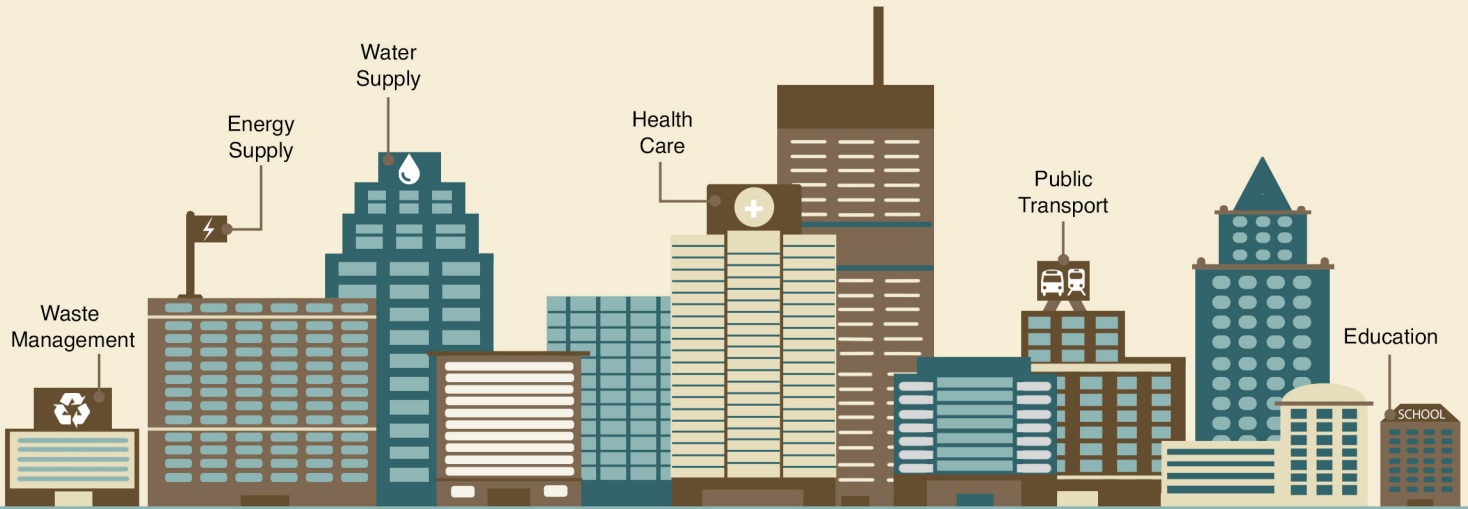


7 REASONS, WHY SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST SHOULD BE IN PUBLIC HANDS

Provision of essential services to the people at affordable prices



1 PUBLIC GOOD INSTEAD OF PROFIT

Services of general interest are serving the common welfare, and as such they should be available to everybody at affordable prices. However private companies wish to achieve profits. For a private provider a non-profitable service is not of interest.



2 DISAPPOINTING PRIVATISATIONS



Services should become 'better and cheaper' when provided by private operators, but frequently those promises have not eventuated. Often the results were higher prices, and poor quality because of lack of investment.

3 CLIMATE PROTECTION

Climate protection goals can be easily implemented by publicly owned transport and energy providers. Many recently started municipal energy providers use 100% green power. However private operators frequently still use fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) or nuclear power.



4 BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS

In many cases privatisations led to job losses, as well as stress and lower pay for staff. However with public employers fair compensation at a pay schedule rate is the norm.

5 PROFITS REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY

In contrast to a private operator any profits of a public business flow back to the people as investment, to maintain or improve the quality of the service.

6 MORE FLEXIBILITY

Municipally owned businesses offer a range of options for the population to exert political influence on the quality and cost of services of general interest.

7 RESIDENTS PREFER THE PUBLIC HAND

In the past years citizens' initiatives were formed in several European countries to take action against the sale of publicly owned assets or to demand a return to public service provision. This shows that people prefer services of general interest to be in public hands.

