



UNISON  
Scotland

Local  
Government  
Network

for people who care about local government

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## Council Tax – needs more than a tweak

UNISON welcomes the ending of the Council Tax freeze and any increase in council revenues, given the scale of the Scottish Government's cuts to grant funding for councils. However, this is a long way from the major reform of local taxation we have called for. Property valuations are stuck at 1991 prices, not enough bands to make it more progressive and increases are capped at 3%.

The additional £100m revenue from the increase in the upper bands is to be taken by government and allocated centrally. Councils are democratically accountable to their electorate for the council tax, not government. We explain the proposals in this [briefing](#) and our [submission](#) to parliament explains in detail why the legislation is going in the wrong direction.

## We Care Do You?

Scotland needs a quality home care service to meet the growing demand and also ensures that patients who shouldn't be in hospital are cared for at home. Our latest [survey](#) of care workers 'We Care Do You?' paints a depressing picture of the service in Scotland. Not enough staff, poorly paid and trained, with not enough time to care.

We also took this [message](#) to the Scottish Parliament's Health Committee last week. We welcome the commitment to pay care workers the Scottish living Wage, although the funding and procurement could have been managed better. A national framework would help, leaving service design to be organised locally.

**We care do you?**  
UNISON's ethical care charter

1 in 12 beds in Scottish hospitals are occupied by patients who would be cared for in the community if we had enough social care staff.

Lets recruit and retain a care workforce that:

- is paid at least the Scottish Living Wage
- is properly trained
- has secure employment contracts
- has time to care for our friends and relatives

Sign up today

**It's time to care!** UNISON Scotland

## In Brief.....

The jury is out on the government's education delivery plan and governance review. It could be empowerment or centralisation. Here is our [briefing](#) and [contribution](#) to the COSLA seminar.

Every penny that can be extracted from expensive PPP schemes, means fewer job losses and better public services. We [show how](#) effective monitoring and refinancing could save a lot more than a penny!

Getting serious about [municipal energy](#) is another way councils could be boosting revenues.

The Scottish Government's, *Plan for Scotland 2016-17*, has plenty for local government to consider. Our [briefing](#) sets out the legislation and other actions. Finance and reform are the big issues. The Fraser of Allander Institute [predicts](#) another £1bn cut from council budget allocations.

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email [Dave Watson](#), Scottish Organiser.

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