



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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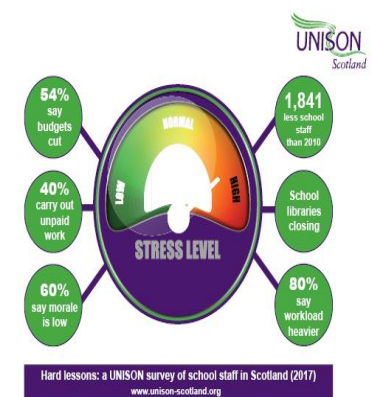
Councils lose out in Scottish budget – again!

The draft Scottish Government [budget](#) yet again puts the burden of austerity onto councils, with a real terms cut in their budget allocation of £327m. This is mitigated by the extra income from the council tax bands (£111m). The extra £107m coming from the NHS budget for social care is for additional commitments, so it won't help to mitigate grant cuts. The same applies to schools funding. Councils also have the option to increase the council tax by up to 3%. This is something they should seriously consider to mitigate austerity - even if the Scottish Government isn't using its own powers to increase the basic rate of income tax.

School Staffs

The latest [publication](#) in our 'Damage' series highlights the impact of cuts on school staffs. Its main finding is that staff have a lack of time, lack of resources and heavy workloads which mean they are struggling to maintain standards for pupils in Scotland.

This is while pupil numbers and education support needs are increasing. There are 6707 more pupils since 2010 in Scottish schools, but there 1841 less support staff and 1389 less teachers. This report confirms the enormous stress this puts on support staff.



In Brief.....

No 'Happy New Year' for council workers awaiting a [response](#) to their pay claim - five months after submitting it! A sad story of cancelled meetings at short notice sends the wrong message to staff.

UNISON's [response](#) to the Scottish Government's 'Blueprint' for early learning emphasises the importance of qualified and fairly paid staff - not a race to the bottom with a voucher scheme.

The government's school governance review won't improve educational attainment through centralisation, or dumping bureaucracy on schools, says UNISON's [response](#) to the consultation.

UNISON Scotland's latest [briefing](#) on tackling the housing crisis.

Audit Scotland's annual [overview](#) of local government finance makes grim reading.

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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