



UNISON  
Scotland

Local  
Government  
Network

for people who care about local government

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## Welcome!

A particular welcome to newly elected councillors across Scotland. UNISON Scotland is the largest trade union representing council staff and this quarterly publication highlights our work in relation to local government.

This is a particularly challenging time for councils across Scotland. This year was not the worst financially, with the extra revenue from council tax bands and in some cases the basic rate, mitigating the [revenue cut](#) from the Scottish Government. It remains to be seen where the new UK government takes austerity and if those cuts continue to be dumped on councils in Scotland. We set out our ideas for local government in Scotland in our [manifesto](#).

## Combating Austerity

Our Combating Austerity report and [toolkit](#) sets out a range of practical measures councils can take to mitigate austerity cuts. Every measure taken saves jobs and services. The ideas include monitoring and refinancing PPP schemes, refinancing other expensive borrowing and income generation. We will shortly publish a report on how some councils have made significant savings, but others have done little.



## In Brief.....

The Scottish Government has outlined its plans for education reform. The detail will be the subject of further consultation and we set out some initial thoughts [here](#).

The local government workforce in Scotland is getting older as our latest [research](#) shows. Councils need to consider a series of measures to address this issue.

The summer edition of our Public Service Futures [newsletter](#) looks at the council elections and wider developments in public service reform.

The Cole report into school closures highlights a range of concerns about building maintenance and the impact of PPP schemes. We set out our response [here](#).

Councils have an important role in raising social care standards through procurement. More needs to be done with workforce [planning](#) and a proper [weighting](#) for fair work.

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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