



UNISON  
Scotland

Local  
Government  
Network

for people who care about local government

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## Combating Austerity

New figures from councils and health boards demonstrate the importance of measures designed to help protect services and jobs as further austerity cuts bite. UNISON Scotland's [Combating Austerity Implementation Report](#) forecasts that a minimum of £250m could be saved and much more if government tackled the financial scandal of PPP/PFI. Each pound saved contributes to protecting vital public services and the jobs needed to deliver them.

Newly elected councils will be asked to take on the proposals. Some councils have taken action, others have done very little. This report shows how well, or badly, your council is doing.

## Pay Up Now!

For years now public service workers have seen their pay [held back](#) by government in the name of austerity. That's no way to treat hardworking people who play such a vital role in looking after us and holding our communities together – keeping us safe, healthy, educated, and cared for.

Join us on 7 October in [Edinburgh](#) to call for government funding for a pay increase for all public service workers. You can also sign the UK [petition](#).



## In Brief.....

The Barclay Review of business rates has some welcome elements as our [briefing](#) says. We don't oppose an end to tax dodging trusts, but government must [compensate](#) councils or £45m of sport and leisure services will be lost. Without that, the review isn't 'revenue neutral'.

Our [briefing](#) on the Scottish Government's legislative programme highlights the impact on local government. We call for fair funding for councils and reforms that strengthen local democracy. Cutting the [Air Departure Tax](#) is unaffordable, regressive and damaging Scotland's [climate change](#) ambitions.

We strongly welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to legislate for a socio-economic duty for public bodies. In this [submission](#), we show how it could benefit communities.

UNISON members are clear that we are not getting it right for children with additional support needs. In this [submission](#), we argue for proper funding and training for school staff.

Building control workers are overworked, stressed and stuck in the office, as our latest [survey](#) shows.

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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