



Issue 336 9th - 13th May 2022

Councillors and Parliamentarians must now defend local democracy - not leave councils with "bins and bodies"

The contest to decide who sits in Scotland's councils is now over. A different and arguably more significant campaign begins - one to defend local government itself. Councils as a tier of democracy are under threat as never before. The combination of underfunding and control over budgets exercised from Holyrood – is hollowing out councils' capacity. Autonomy is diminishing as a tightly centralised funding arrangement leaves effective control in Holyrood and plans for social care will mean responsibility will be centralised to Edinburgh and outsourced to quangos - reducing local input, accountability and transparency.

Councillors need to stand up, not just for their own ward , but for the councils they serve in. They need to put dedicate their efforts towards stopping the hollowing out of Local Government. They should receive robust support from parliamentarians in doing so.

As UNISON Scottish Secretary Tracey Dalling puts it " We will have refuse collection and we will have burials and graveyards [run by councils] and very little else. There is a huge, centralised agenda from the Scottish Government and has been for some time" These are local services delivered to local people, by local employees and they are held to account by local elected councillors.' If we continue with this and we continue with the level of cuts to a whole range of services, and a mantra that somehow private can do things better or cheaper, what is going to be left in terms of local service delivery?" [more here](#)

Social care workers must be compensated for fuel price increases

UNISON is urging Humza Yousaf, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, to increase mileage allowances for social care workers in the third and private sector. UNISON is the largest union representing social care workers.

John Mooney, UNISON Scotland head of social care said: "It's inconceivable that the lowest paid workers are expected to shoulder the burden of increased fuel costs without assistance. Once again social care workers in the third and private sector are being treated as the poor relations in Scottish public services. UNISON is urging Humza Yousaf and Kevin Stewart, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, to sit down with us to discuss how we can support these low paid essential workers. Read [more](#).

College staff urged 'vote yes to strike' in ballot across Scotland

UNISON demands school meals workers are brought in-house

Recognise, Respect Reward

Fair Pay Campaign for
Local Government Workers

PUT NHS PAY RIGHT

UNISON
the public service union

Take action on the cost of living crisis



Last week, inflation hit a 30-year high. The cost of living crisis is affecting every part of our lives and pushing more and more people into extreme poverty and hardship. UNISON is calling on members to join the union and the rest of the union movement on a **national day of action** at events across the UK on Saturday 18 June organised by the TUC. **Watch our video** about the demo and march.

PICK OF THE MEDIA

04/05/22 tfn.scot

Carole Ewart makes the case for a bill which campaigners hope will extend the reach of FoI so that it applies to voluntary sector services.

04/05/22 gallowaygazette.co.uk

J'an Andrews, secretary of UNISON's Dumfries and Galloway branch, is furious over the apparent unfair treatment being meted out to part-time workers for Jubilee holiday.

04/05/22 tuc.org.uk

The future of rail funding in the UK

30/04/22 glasgowtimes.co.uk

"We therefore lack confidence that the council and HSCP intend doing anything and have therefore written to the Humza Yousaf and regulators calling on them to act." Simon Macfarlane, UNISON Scotland.

28/04/22 theguardian.com

As BP made a profit of £10bn last year, admitting it has "more cash than we know what to do with"

How would a UK windfall tax on oil and gas profits work?

28/04/22 tuc.org.uk

The TUC and Covid Bereaved Families for Justice call for public inquiry into Coronavirus to focus on what could have been done to prevent worker deaths.

01/05/22 morningstaronline.com

Obituaries: John Stevenson, social worker and trade unionist.

03/03/22 publicservices.international

Study finds Publicly owned Local Services more Resilient and Equitable.

Young Members Mental Health Survey - The survey asks about mental health, the cost of living, and involvement in UNISON.



Energy Support Appeal

Helping low income and vulnerable members with rising energy costs

There for You launches the Energy Support Appeal

There for You is launching their **Energy Support Fund** to help members through the cost-of-living crisis. In order to support as many members as possible over this year, they are asking for donations from branches.



UNISON Scotland Activist Education

UNISON has a proud history of providing high quality learning opportunities for our members. We work with trusted national institutions like The Open University and the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and a host of local providers, and we also deliver informal learning in-house.

Our online education programme for May to December 2022 is [here](#).

7 reasons to join UNISON



UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU - JOIN NOW

Update your UNISON details



0800 0 857 857

To take part in our consultations, surveys and ballots, we need accurate information: **your work, email & mobile.**
