



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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Strengthening Local Democracy

UNISON Scotland welcomes the [establishment](#) of the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy. In the face of increasing centralisation it is vital that local government makes the case for putting local democracy at the heart of Scotland's future.

In our [submission](#) to the Commission we set out how powers should be devolved not just to the Scottish Parliament, but also to local communities. The latest edition of our [journal](#) Public Service Futures has the latest news on public service reform in Scotland.

Paying for Local Government

An opinion [poll](#) conducted by Mori for the Commission should give politicians some confidence in addressing the vexed issue of Council Tax reform. It shows that the public understand that decent services have to be funded properly.

UNISON Scotland believes that short-term sticking plaster solutions have to end and we have published a discussion [paper](#) that shows how we can reform the Council Tax. The IFS [paper](#) 'Taxation in an Independent Scotland' also makes an important contribution to the debate on local taxation.



In Brief.....

Councils have taken the brunt of job cuts in Scotland's public service workforce and it's going to get worse. The workforce is also getting older and young people are losing out. The latest UNISON [analysis](#) shows why.

Contempt of court ruling in Edinburgh has wide ranging implications for social work. UNISON has [urged](#) ministers to review the legislation as matter of urgency.

A long overdue shake up of pension fund governance is signposted in an SPPA consultation paper. Scottish pension funds are stuck in a pre-Maxwell time warp and we set out why in our Scottish Pensions [Bulletin](#).

A Joseph Rowntree [report](#) found that cuts in spending power and budgeted spend are systematically greater in more deprived local authorities than in more affluent ones. £90 per head difference.

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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