



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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Budget

Sadly, the draft Scottish [budget](#) had few surprises for councils. Yet again public sector workers take the biggest hit through their pay packets, followed by councils and police staffs. The local government revenue grant is cut in real terms; with the exception of additional funding previously announced for free school meals. Extra revenue is anticipated from non-domestic rates and some additional capital leaving an overall standstill budget. The Council Tax freeze continues for the eighth year with no increase in funding. Local government remains the only major spending portfolio to have a cut in cash terms since the financial crash.

We would urge councillors not to be the passive administrators of cuts. Look carefully at issues like the scale of balances, because the rainy day has passed – its pouring! Develop needs based budgets to show the impact of cuts.

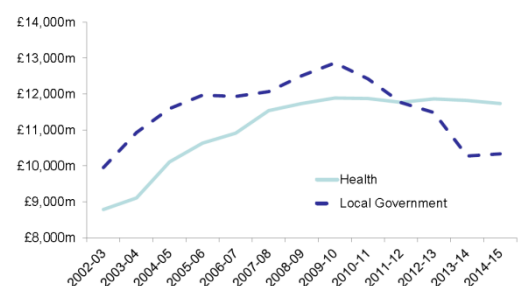
Austerity Economics Don't Add Up

UNISON Scotland has published a [new report](#) on Scotland's public services and the economy – '*Austerity Economics Don't Add Up*'.

Creating decent work and providing dignity for those who cannot work is at the heart of the battle against austerity and tackling inequality. It makes economic sense and this report demonstrates why.

The report also shows how important council services are in tackling poverty. 40% of those who need services can't access them due to unavailability, unaffordability or inadequacy.

Real spending on NHS and Local Government 2002-03 to 2014-15



In Brief.....

There is support for the principle of health and care integration amongst the staff who will try to make it work. However, this [survey](#) shows they doubt a quality service will be delivered, primarily due to budget cuts.

Violence towards staff in Scottish councils increased again last year. Our [report](#) shows more could be done.

A UNISON [survey](#) of Scotland's housing staff has exposed the reality of frontline staff trying to cope with the huge scale of the housing crisis. If we want to get serious about social justice, housing should be a priority.

UNISON Scotland, *Dishing the Dirt*, [report](#) paints a bleak picture of cleaning staff who are struggling to keep schools, day centres and other council services clean. They feel undervalued and are asked to clean more, with less staff, and cheaper less effective cleaning materials. If you care about hygiene - cleaners matter.

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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