

TAKE SIX STEPS TO FIGHT THE CUTS

Protecting people and their local communities

Local government has immediately been hit hard by the Con-Dem government's slashing of public spending. £1.165 billion has been carved out of the 2010-11 central government grant to councils and more will follow next year. These cuts will lead to large number of job losses, demolish local services and hurt local businesses because local council spending generates money and investment.

Each council will cut to a different degree and cuts will hit different services. Unite wants to bring together local government workers and their local communities to put the maximum political pressure on councils and MPs to stand up to the government and protect jobs and services. Grassroots campaigning is going to be critical to our national campaign is to defend people, pay and pensions in local government.

Local government workers and other public sector workers did not cause the economic crisis – they should not have to pay for it.

PLEASE TAKE SIX STEPS IN YOUR WORKPLACE TO GET THE CAMPAIGN STARTED

1. **Put up the Unite poster in your workplace**, saying no to the local cuts. **Download a poster** (<http://tinyurl.com/2vd65bm>) or **request a supply** (<http://tinyurl.com/32d7ods>).
2. **Talk to Unite members and non-members in your workplace** about why Unite is campaigning against cuts to local government, and why they should be part of that campaign. Starting a petition in your local authority and asking your colleagues to sign can be a good way of starting the conversation with people.

There is also a **template petition** (<http://tinyurl.com/384m5d3>) and an activists brief that covers the main arguments about why cuts won't help the deficit, they will just hurt local services: Download the: **England briefing** (<http://tinyurl.com/335g4m5>); **Scotland briefing** (<http://tinyurl.com/39pez4>); **Wales briefing** (<http://tinyurl.com/3659qfg>). Get people to sign a petition now.

3. **Remember to encourage those not in a union to join Unite!** Get your colleagues to **join online** at <http://www.unitetheunion.org/joinonline>
4. **Write to your local councillor, chief executive and MP** about why cutting local services will hurt the local community and the local economy and encourage as many people as possible to send in letters.
Unite has drafted some **template letters** (<http://tinyurl.com/38gwrhj>) which can be adapted with your own local examples about why cutting services is wrong.
5. **Write a letter to your local newspaper** and explain how the cuts to local services will affect the local community. The letters editor's contact details will be in the front pages of your local paper.
For more information about using the media look at our **campaign guide** (<http://tinyurl.com/36lp83o>)
6. **Share your campaign stories** – we want you to share your campaigning stories with other local government activists, and see how other Branches are campaigning against cuts to services. We have set up a tool on our website you can use to tell us about your campaign activities and send us photos – **share your story** (email: sally.kosky@unitetheunion.org)

Throughout all these steps keep the other trade unions in your workplace informed and co-ordinate activities where possible and involve the local community as much as possible – together we are stronger.

Unite has produced a 'Campaign Guide' to help provide ideas of activities and actions members can take to campaign against cuts to local services. Get active, download the **campaign guide** (<http://tinyurl.com/36lp83o>).

