

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND SERVICES

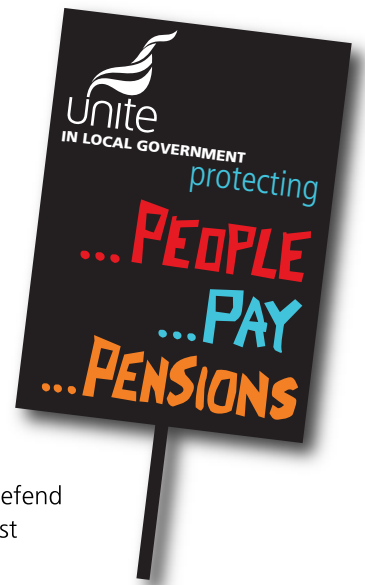
Local government was immediately hit hard by the Tory-led government's slashing of public spending and now we are in the first year of the harshest financial settlement ever, with an overall spending cut of 27%.

Across the country local communities are suffering as councils cutback or abolish local services altogether. Large scale job losses, demolished local services and struggling local businesses will be the legacy of the government's cuts programme.

In many communities local government workers are involved in grassroots anti-cuts campaigns to defend services for all. Unite recognises that many may be demoralised after their Council passed their latest Budget. Many of our workplace reps and activists are dealing with large numbers of redundancies. Continuing to work with Councillors – especially those in the Unite network – will remain important.

The amazing turnout on March 26 showed that there is massive support for an alternative to what this Tory-led government is doing. We need to keep the pressure on in the run-up to the local elections to make Councillors and MPs stand up to the Government to protect jobs and services.

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



PLEASE TAKE 6 STEPS:

1. Covering the basics!

Make sure you make use of the PPP campaign materials – you can download posters for your workplace and get our easy to follow campaign guide from the website, <http://www.unitetheunion.org/pppcampaign>

2. Share your news – good and bad!

There is lots of creative campaign activity happening across the country - even if you are just starting a campaign in your local area or have been involved in organising huge events in your area we want you to share your ideas and get inspiration from others. Tell us what your campaign is doing via Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/5rzp6mr>; Twitter: <http://twitter.com/dntbreakbritain> or share your story on the PPP campaign website.

Tell us what is happening in your area and the impact on you and the services you deliver. Text CUTS to 86888 to join our 'UniteYou' text service and to share your stories.

3. Punish the Government at the ballot box!

May 5 is the local elections; we understand that there is a lot of anger about cuts made by Labour councils. Yet the blame firmly lies with the Tory and Lib Dem Coalition Government. Make sure you, your family, friends and workmates are all registered to vote. You can register here – the deadline for voter registration is 14 April. Remember you can also register for a postal vote.

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/how_do_i_vote/registering_to_vote.aspx

4. Remember to encourage those not in a union to join Unite!

Get your colleagues to join online at <http://www.unitetheunion.org/joinonline>. There will be more cuts in coming years and the threat of privatisation – the stronger we are the better we are at defending our members, and the more successful we will be.

5. Keep telling your Councillors and MPs the impact of the Government cuts and argue for the alternative!

Organise regular meetings with; your Councillors, the Labour group (whether leading the Council or in Opposition) and your MP and explain actions you want them to take to oppose the spending cuts. Take a look at Unite's PPP and Don't Break Britain campaign pages for activities and resources to help you fight the cuts: <http://www.dontbreakbritain.org/>

6. Make sure we have your up to date details!

Make sure that we have your up to date email address, otherwise you are missing out on campaign materials and union information. It only takes a few minutes to give us your correct email address by visiting MyUnite: <http://www.unitetheunion.org/myunite>

If you are a workplace rep, make sure that you get your branch members to check we have all their correct membership, contact and workplace details – get them to visit MyUnite <http://www.unitetheunion.org/myunite>