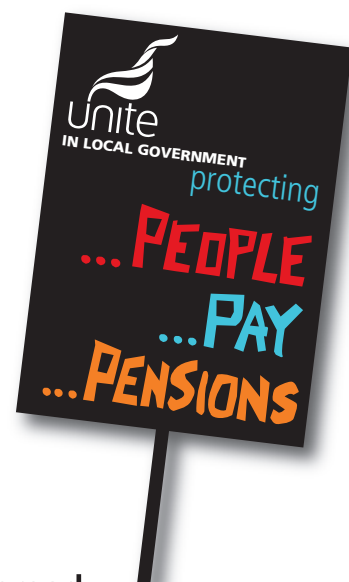


DEFEND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES



Local government services and workers are in the firing line as the ConDem government slashes public spending. If successfully implemented the massive public spending cuts will lead to widespread job losses and service closures that will damage the economy, hurt local communities and may make the deficit worse.

Local government workers and local communities did not cause the economic crisis – they should not have to pay for it now.

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 their slash and burn agenda. As part of this we need you to let your local Councillor, the Chief Executive of your council and your local MP know that you think cuts to local services will damage your local community and local economy.

On the next few pages there are different template letters and emails that you can use to send to your local Councillor, the Chief Executive of your council and your local MP. Feel free to adapt them to your local circumstances and oppose specific job and service cuts that your council is proposing.

- You can find the contact details of your local councillor through the Direct.gov website, here <http://bit.ly/93E1bg>
- You can find the contact details of your local Council's Chief Executive on your local Council's webpage. If you aren't sure of the address you can find it via the Direct.gov website here <http://tinyurl.com/4vn67e>
- You can find the contact details of your local MP here <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk>
- You can send an email direct to your Councillor and MP just by visiting <http://www.writetothem.com>

Don't just send the letters and emails yourself – encourage everyone in your workplace and members of the public to send in letters. They can be printed off in bulk and people can fill in their own contact details at the top right hand corner and sign their name at the bottom.

For help with running stalls where people can sign the letters and other activities look in our 'Campaign Guide' available at www.unitetheunion.org/pppcampaign

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August 2010

Dear,

The cuts to local council services that are being made will damage our local community, threaten jobs and hurt our local economy.

People rely on local council services to improve and maintain the area where they live, turning collections of houses into communities. Those services are not possible without local government workers - local government workers are local government services. The job losses the Council is proposing will directly translate into a reduction in the range and level of council services available to people in this area.

The job losses the Council are proposing will not just mean our local services get worse or stop altogether, but they will also impact badly on businesses and massively increase unemployment in this area. The Association of Public Service Excellence have found that local government workers re-spend 52.5p in the local economy from each £1 they receive in wages. Therefore each job loss is not just a loss of an important service, it is a loss of spending on local businesses and facilities.

Please stand up against the slash and burn agenda of the government in cutting back public spending and against local cuts that will damage the area we live in and the people who live here.

Yours Sincerely,

Dear,

The cuts to local services being proposed by the Council are wrong – they will lead to poor local services, job losses and make this area a worse place to live.

We don't want to lose the services that make this a nice area to live – providing care and support for vulnerable people, activities and resources for people and organisations in the local area and making sure the area is kept well.

As well as providing all these services the money spent by our Council is an economic multiplier – when it is spent in a the area on staff, services and goods it generates more money and wealth in that area than the original spend. For example, the Association of Public Service Excellence has found that for every £1 spent by a local council, £1.64 is generated in that area.

The cuts the Council and government want to make will mean we not only lose the local services and staff supported by that spending, but the additional money and wealth for local businesses that would have been generated.

Please stand up against the slash and burn agenda of the government in cutting back public spending and against local cuts that will damage the area we live in and the people who live here.

Yours Sincerely,

Dear,

The cuts proposed by the Council will hurt this local community by increasing unemployment, stopping some council services and ruining others.

The people living in this area did not cause the recession and economic crisis – they should not have to pay for it now by losing the services they rely on. These are not ‘savings’ they are just cuts that will hurt the local community.

Making local government workers unemployed is distressing for those workers, and means less services for people and less money will be spent in the local area. The Association of Public Service Excellence have found that local government workers re-spend 52.5p in the local economy from each £1 they receive in wages. This will also impact badly on local businesses and also threatens jobs in the private sector – increasing unemployment in this area further.

Please stand up against the slash and burn agenda of the government in cutting back public spending and against local cuts that will damage the area we live in and the people who live here.

Yours Sincerely,