

**COUNCIL MELTDOWN PREDICTED FROM CUTS AND 'TRANSFORMATION'**

# Services to be slashed as 3,000 jobs set to go

**UNISON** fears that as many as 3,000 jobs - one in every six council staff - will be slashed as the effects of the Transformation Programme and future budget cuts become clear.

"The effect on services and staff will be devastating as up to 15% of council employees could face being forced out of their jobs", said Amanda Kerr, UNISON branch secretary.

"Losing this amount of staff will decimate the services we provide and the public rely on to the point where they would be unrecognisable."

Gerry Stovin, service conditions officer, added: "We no longer believe the myth that the Transformation Programme is an efficiency driven exercise but recognise it as ideologically driven and a threat to public services.

"It is now time for the



**The effect on services and staff will be devastating'**

Amanda Kerr

politicians to stand up for the pledges they were elected on and support UNISON in the fight to save public services in Edinburgh for future generations."

Lead negotiator Tom Connolly warned of the effect on services:

"Every job lost is a service lost, a school closed, a care home closed, young and old put at risk.

"Not one report from the Transformation Programme acknowledges the effect these cuts will have on you, the services you provide, the public we serve or the local economy."

UNISON is calling for meaningful consultation and will demand that the council honours its no compulsory redundancy pledge.

It is also calling for Holyrood to step in to help (see over).

**Keep up to date with UNISON news p2**

**Lobby against cuts and privatisation**

**Thurs 24 Sept. 08.45 - 09.45**

**City Chambers, High Street**

**Make your voices heard. Come and support your UNISON reps**

## Where the cuts come from

The Council has so far only documented 946 jobs cuts that cover three work streams in the Transformation Programme; Business and Support Services, Citizens and Localities and Channel Shift.

Further reports will detail cuts and job losses in the Asset Management strand which includes Facilities Management.

Service reviews are beginning soon and this is where we understand that targets of cutting line management by between 27% - 40% and frontline staff by 15% have been proposed.

Further cuts of £34 million will also come in the 2016 budget consultation for implementation in April 2016. These are being termed as Stop/Reduce proposals.

We are left wondering what services will be left next year for the council to reduce or stop providing.

For breaking news and updates, check our website at...

[www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk)

# Privatisation looms again

**As we react to the bombshell of just how devastating the cuts we face are, we musn't forget that privatisation is also on the cards despite our victory against the massive sell-off planned in 2011/2012.**

In 2012, Labour, SNP and Green councillors combined to stop the wasteful privatisation of Edinburgh's services after UNISON and the wider community united under the 'Our City's Not For Sale' banner.

Now, officials are drawing up reports for Labour and SNP councillors (now the Council's ruling coalition) that will put privatisation back on the agenda.

Sadly, UNISON is again having to campaign to say 'Our City's still Not for Sale' and is calling on the coalition councillors to 'Keep Edinburgh Public' and honour the pledges that got them elected.

The arguments that beat off privatisation the last time haven't changed. We said in 2012:-

- If the council provides services without having to make a profit, how can a private company save money and make a profit on top?
- With shareholders and big executives to pay, how can they do it cheaper?
- Simple. By cutting quality. By cutting the service. By cutting the wages and conditions of some of the lowest paid staff. Or - as other

## ourCity's *still* NOT for sale

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AGAINST CUTS AND PRIVATISATION

UNISON  
Edinburgh

councils have discovered - by charging more!

- So your tax pays for profits instead of services.

"And the public agree", said branch president John Stevenson: "In a UNISON survey in May this year over two-thirds (68%) of the public believed that 'public sector organisations (such as local councils and the NHS)' are accountable to the public."

### Holyrood must act to protect services

John Stevenson called again on the Scottish Government to step in with emergency money to save services while they look at a fairer funding system.



John Stevenson

"There has been a deafening silence on the massive cuts local councils have faced with 40,000 jobs lost in the last few years.




"Now the referendum and the election is over, the government needs to face up to the crisis and make funding available before services disappear for ever."

### UNISON Contacts for work streams

- Business and Support Services - David Harrold /Aileen Park
- Citizens and Localities - Joe Greenan /Pam Gifford
- Asset Management - Gerry Stovin /Caroline McLean
- Workforce management - Tom Connolly
- Health & Social Care Integration - Brian Crozier/Murdo/Kirsten
- Channel Shift -Tom Muir
- Third Sector & Grants - Gordon Maloney
- Reviews - Your local steward with support from the Service Conditions Team

## Keep up to date with UNISON

The Branch has had a website for many years but did you know we are also on a blog, Facebook and Twitter? If you follow us on Twitter you can get breaking news direct to your mobile phone. **We will also be sending out regular email briefings, so make sure we have your up to date email address.**

 [facebook.com/unison.edinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/unison.edinburgh)  [@unisonedin](https://twitter.com/unisonedin)  [unisonedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk](http://unisonedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk)

**Make sure your colleagues are in UNISON. To join phone 0131 558 7488 or 0800 171 2193 or join online at [www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk)**