



Cllr Jonathan McColl
Leader of the Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
Garshake Road
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Dear Councillor McColl

West Dunbartonshire Council: Leaked Budget Proposals – An Open Letter

Ahead of the next full council meeting of Wednesday 20 December and on behalf of our GMB membership in WDC, I write to you with grave concerns for the future of jobs, services and local well-being following the media leak of the council's budget cuts proposals.

GMB Scotland has received a copy of these proposals and we must be clear that if there is validity to these documents then you will be fuelling austerity in a council where deprivation levels have already risen in the last five years. It's a recipe for disaster.

The headline figures of £13 million worth of budget cuts and the loss of 180 full-time local jobs are cause for significant concern alone. However, the detail reveals potential cuts that would have serious consequences for the future of services and a significant social impact:

- A loss of 35 full-time facilities assistants means unclean schools;
- A 25 per cent reduction to street cleansing means dirtier communities; and
- A cut of 20 Greenlight posts means OAP's unable to maintain their homes.

Furthermore, proposals to cut the local school clothing grant by 50 per cent and to reduce the provision of freshly prepared and hot school meals for local kids will have a significant knock-on effect for families, already struggling with a six year high in the cost of living.

GMB knows that Scottish local government has been hammered in the last decade by a combination of UK and Scottish Government austerity, made worse by eight years of a regressive council tax freeze policy which starved council budgets of essential funding.

This austerity shame is evidenced in our rubbish strewn streets, pot holed roads, pit stop home care services and struggling education services. We cannot go on like this.

It is clear to GMB Scotland that the draconian proposals in this leaked document will only make our problems worse, stripping jobs, prosperity and dignity away from West Dunbartonshire.

That's why ahead of Wednesday's council meeting we are urging you to think again.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rhea'.

Rhea Wolfson

GMB Scotland Organiser

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