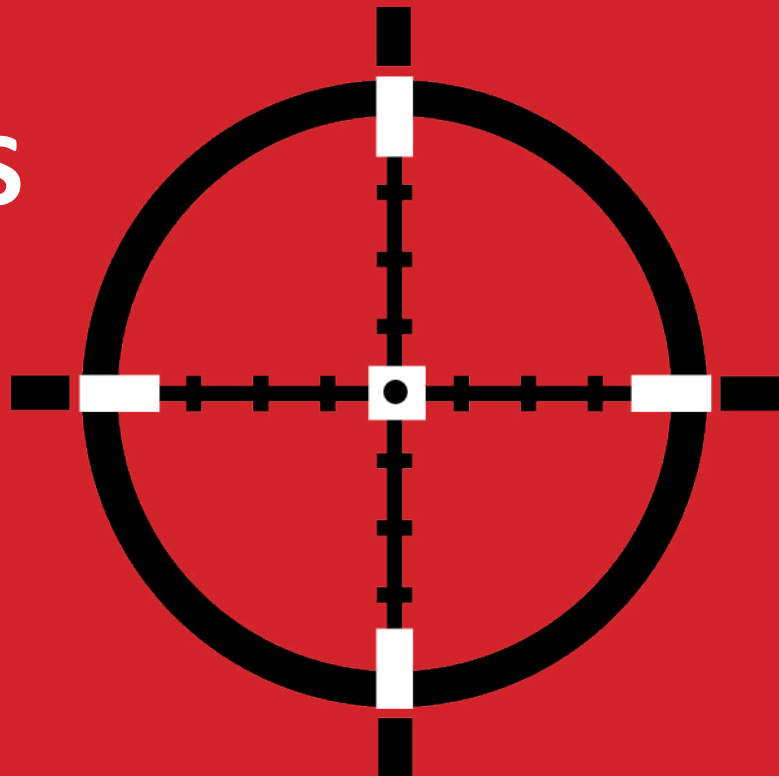


**WHAT SERVICES
ARE BEING
TARGETED IN
YOUR AREA?**



**ST VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**Day
centres**

**Leisure
centres**

Libraries

**School
activities**

**Refuse
collection**

UNISON
Scotland

ST VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

February 2014

Council budgets

Councils are due to announce their budgets this week. The decisions made will have a serious impact on UNISON members and place services under threat. We need to highlight the cuts and the impact they are having on our communities. It is vital that we get our message over that high-quality public services are essential to our economy and that there is a real alternative to the cuts. What services are being targeted in your area?

- *Opening hours in libraries being reduced, some may be facing closure*
- *Charges increasing in leisure centres*
- *Cuts to environmental health and food hygiene inspection*
- *Cuts in day centre provision for the elderly, disabled and people with mental health problems*
- *Carers on zero hours contracts with too little time to care properly*
- *Bins being collected less frequently*
- *School breakfast club charges rising*
- *Communities and individuals being put at risk by trading standards cuts*

UNISON has consistently challenged the need for cuts which are based on politics, not economics. The union has also condemned the continued council tax freeze as it prevents councils from raising vital funds and at the same time provides a real-terms tax cut to the wealthiest

Action for branches

- Identify local examples of how the cuts will affect services in your area
- Think about staging events, stunts or a lobby of your council
- Write to your councillor, or visit your councillor's surgery, to outline your concerns about the cuts and highlight the alternatives
- Spread the word - talk to friends and colleagues, use your social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter, and ask people to contact their councillors to oppose the cuts
- Recruit a colleague - the more people we have in the union, the stronger our voices are.

Keep up-to-date

Check out the following links to keep up-to-date with UNISON Scotland

- UNISON Scotland Website - www.unison-scotland.org.uk
- UNISON Scotland blog - unison-scotland.blogspot.co.uk
- UNISON Public Works blog - publicworksscotland.blogspot.co.uk
- Follow us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#)

