

## **Public Cuts Results in 20,000 Scottish Jobs Axed**

*A new survey has revealed that more than 20,000 Scottish council workers face redundancy over the next two years due to cuts in government spending.*

January 13, 2011 (FPRC) -- Teachers, college lecturers and those employed in the waste and transport services are to be among the most likely candidates to face the chop. Business advisors at Grant Thornton questioned a total of 39 local finance directors and heads of authority at local councils and found 51 per cent of councils chiefs were concerned that the spending cuts would lead to further job losses and could total as much as 22,000.

Of the 39 which were questioned, forty six per cent forecast that the transport and environmental services would suffer the most, followed by learning and education sectors.

For debt solutions company Scottish Trust Deed, the news came as a shock. A spokesperson for the company commented by saying; 'A third of all councils are looking to make savings across the board, especially in the education and learning sectors. For the last 10 years there has been a failure to deliver the attained level of improvement in the education sector and these cuts will inevitably have a profound effect on the skill sets of future generations'.

The spokesperson added; '22,000 job cuts would mean there will be 10 per cent fewer local government employees in three years time, meaning more families will be out of work and struggling to meet their financial commitments. We have seen an increasing number of families succumb to the affects of the recession over the last 12 months, this news only adds to the ever increasing possibility of a 'double dipped recession'.

Scottish Trust Deed help thousands of Scottish residents each month get out of debt through their Trust Deeds programme, which enables struggling consumers to legally write off a percentage of what they cannot afford to repay.

Labour local government spokesman Michael McMahon said: 'No one doubts that local authorities have difficult and challenging times ahead. That's why there needs to be a clear statement from the SNP that local authorities will still get the £70million set aside for the council tax freeze to protect services.'

However, Tory finance spokesman Derek Brownlee claimed the problem resulted from the 'dire legacy of debt left by Labour'. He said: 'There is a straight choice in front of our councils and council workers – either have a pay freeze or lose more jobs. Which would the unions prefer?'

The Scottish Government responded by saying; 'We have helped councils by allocating an increasing share of the available resources, up by 0.69% over the last 2 years, this is despite Westminster cutting our budgets for this year'.

### **Contact Information**

For more information contact David Baddeley of Scottish Trust Deed  
(<http://www.scottishtrustdeed.co.uk>)  
0800 043 2027

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