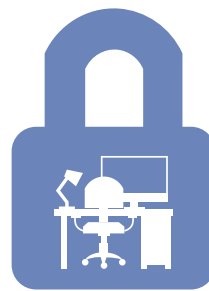


COUNCILS

ARE



KEY



Unlock our Potential



COSLA



Councils are key to...

-  health and wellbeing
-  good quality affordable housing and preventing homelessness
-  the education of our young people
-  providing fair work employment opportunities
-  addressing poverty
-  leading local emergency responses
-  providing care and support to communities
-  supporting asylum seekers and refugees
-  tackling and preventing violence against women and girls
-  driving economic development
-  the just transition to Net Zero
-  ensuring democracy is closest to communities

Local Government is the largest public sector employer with 262,000 employees

Councils support 97% of people to get out of hospital without a delay

Councils supported over 25,000 displaced people from Ukraine, as well as asylum applicants and refugees from across the world

Business Gateway supports 50,000 unique business customers annually

Verity House Agreement

COSLA welcomes the Verity House Agreement, signed in June 2023, which is a commitment to a new, improved and more effective partnership with Scottish Government. This can open up numerous opportunities to help fund essential services:

**Local by default,
National by agreement**

**Default position of no ring-fenced
or directed funding**

**Early budget engagement
with "no surprises"**

**New Fiscal
Framework**

**Incorporation of the European
Charter of Local Self Government**

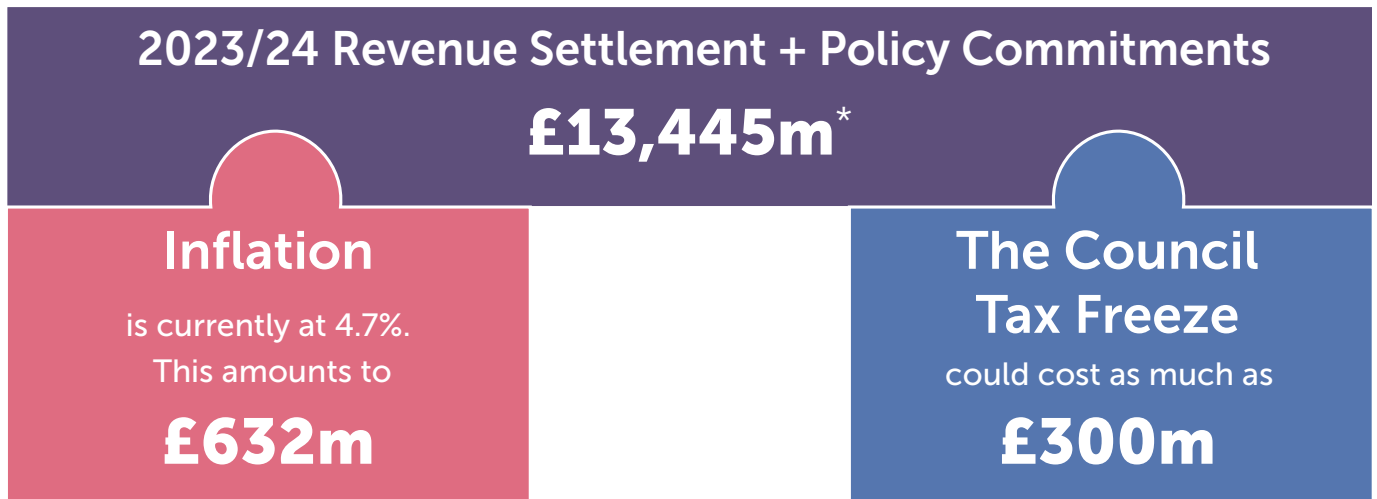


Local Government needs investment

Councils are facing **rising costs** and **increasing demand**, so it's crucial that the Local Government settlement reflects the **true cost of delivering and commissioning services**.

The UK Autumn statement presents Scottish Government with **tough choices** when setting its own budget. Every pound invested in Local Government has the potential to generate savings elsewhere across the public sector, for example in health and criminal justice.

Councils are key to preventing problems occurring – the settlement needs to reflect this.



Unless all the pieces of the puzzle are fully funded, there will be service cuts and job losses.



Local Government has the potential to raise its own revenue. We should be empowered and trusted to get on with this now.

2023/24 Capital Settlement + Policy Commitments

£738m*

Inflation

in construction in the last two years has been 13.6%. This amounts to

£100.4m

£838m

to achieve buying power of
2021

Locked
Out

This amounts to only **£154** per person in Scotland

Locked
Out

This is simply **not enough** to address current pressures and allow investment towards achieving net zero targets.



Local Government can reclaim VAT on building projects – we can be a key enabler for projects that provide integrated public services

*3/23 Local Government Finance Circular £829m – £120.6m capital for pay + £29.5m policy commitments

Without adequate and sustainable funding for Local Government, Scotland will:



not be able to tackle poverty (especially child poverty)

not be able to support a just transition to net zero

not provide sustainable public services

Invest in and empower Local Government to enable people to live well locally



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