

# INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IS AT RISK WHEN CORE BUDGETS ARE UNDER THREAT

## To achieve inclusive economic growth we need:

- Fair funding for revenue and capital budgets
- Core funding that allows investment in economic development services. *Inclusive* economic growth and fair work takes time and effort, to not just grow the economy but to ensure the benefits of growth are shared equitably, to reach the most vulnerable, reskilling people, and lifting them out of poverty
- Local powers and flexibility to make decisions that best suit local economies and communities

**We must ensure that the economy provides opportunities for everyone. The choices made every day by Councils** – who they employ, what they buy, who they contract with, the infrastructure and services they deliver, the businesses they support - create jobs and wealth, putting money into the pockets of individuals, who spend in their local community. Investment in local businesses and growth sectors, coupled with integrated employability programmes, supports those furthest from the labour market and lifts people out of poverty.

## Inclusive economic growth depends on these essential services:



**EDUCATION**—with over **£5b** invested every year, this key service prepares young people for study and work. £182m each year through the Scottish Attainment Challenge allows Councils to target support to those who need it and

close the attainment gap- but it's a long-term task and relies on this vital funding being maintained.



Accessible, affordable **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** gets people to and from work or training and reduces congestion and emissions. And high-quality **ROAD AND PATH NETWORKS** support

businesses, tourism and active travel on a daily basis, which, in turn, improves wealth, health and wellbeing.



**COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION** provides support for the most vulnerable and disengaged, including youth work, adult learning and English language tuition. And once the first steps have been taken, **Employability Services** help

people back into work, improving individual and family circumstance.



**DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE** gets businesses and families and communities connected, allows Councils to deliver more services online and streamline back-office functions, ensuring scarce resources can be invested in providing frontline services.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SUPPORT** services help new and existing business to grow, diversify, create and sustain employment



**COSLA**

**#essentialservices**

*Our vision: Scotland's communities are sustainable, vibrant places to live, work and visit.*

# Inclusive Economic Growth



A variety of **REGULATORY AND TRADING STANDARDS SERVICES** protect the public – for example food safety in restaurants and cafes, protection against illicit trade scams and

doorstep crime. And **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS** will be there to support food exporting businesses through the challenges of Brexit, helping ensure that businesses can continue to trade in key European markets.

As well as protecting the public by ensuring



compliance with building regulations, **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES** ensure that the Place Principle is upheld and that development within communities is

done in a controlled, sustainable way.



**REGENERATION ACTIVITIES** focus on creating vibrant town centres that can respond to changes in consumer behaviour and maximise opportunities for tourism, sport, culture and leisure.



## COUNCIL PROCUREMENT SERVICES

spend money locally and across Scotland that creates and supports jobs and adds value to communities including apprenticeships, school liaison, support for community projects and initiatives.



## Building AFFORDABLE HOUSING

not only provides those in need with energy efficient homes but creates jobs during construction. And maintenance of existing stock also creates jobs and ensures homes are meeting energy efficiency standards.



As an **EMPLOYER**, Local Government contributes to fair employment and just labour markets, providing 10% of all jobs across Scotland. Further positive targeting of recruitment and work

experience within disadvantaged areas will support inclusive local economies.



**The risks of not investing** include a widening attainment gap, a mismatch between the qualifications of young people and what employers need; rising youth unemployment; increased social exclusion; business failure; poor health and wellbeing; increased emissions, town centre vacancies; and poorer quality built environment.

Local Government's role, reach and connections in ensuring **inclusive economic growth** is unique and should be invested in