

For the benefit of people across Scotland, COSLA expects a UK government, working with their devolved governments, to respect the democratic mandate of Councillors and put the **LOCAL** back into Local Government by:

Providing fair funding for essential local services and infrastructure, by setting multi-year budgets that enable long term planning and fair pay for our workforce

What this means for communities

- **Essential services:** Multi-year settlements will provide councils with the stability they need to continue delivering key services that are essential for our communities such as social care & social work, affordable housing and education. Planning for the future is essential but can only happen if there is more certainty.
- **A stronger economy:** Long-term planning enables councils to invest more strategically into services and support for local businesses, with the aim of boosting economic growth, which in turn attracts investment and creates more local job opportunities.
- **Addressing net zero:** Long-term financial planning enables councils to invest in capital infrastructure that can support the development of 20-minute neighbourhoods as well as tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions. This investment would regenerate towns, tackle inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of communities.
- **Vital infrastructure:** Multi-year settlements provide security for long term investment and maintenance of vital community assets such as schools, roads and care homes, as well as the buildings that support delivery of essential services.
- **Focus on prevention:** Fair funding means investment in non-statutory services including community mental health, youth work and violence against women and girls - all areas that have been subject to cuts. These preventative and early intervention services are essential in providing support to some of the most vulnerable in communities.