

Aberdeen and Glasgow protest cuts

By Karen Roberts

UNIONS in Aberdeen joined together yesterday to voice their dissent at public sector cuts.

Around 1000 people took part in the march down Union Street to protest against spending cuts made by Aberdeen City Council and the government.

The teacher's union EIS was joined on the march in the city centre by members of other unions such as Communication Workers Union, Unison, and the Public and Commercial Services union as well as politicians.

There has been outrage among union members about staff cuts, pension cuts and wage freezes.

Grant Bruce, secretary of the Aberdeen branch of the EIS said, "In Aberdeen there's been four years of successive cuts. Today is about getting the message across to the council and the parliament in Edinburgh that we need to invest in the future of Scottish Education — the year after year of cuts has to end."

He added that the unions coming together reinforced the message, he said, "This is

a show of solidarity, we want to protect public services in Scotland and we are urging the Scottish Government to find the resources that services need."

Mark Chapman, Regional Organiser from the Aberdeen and Inverness Public and Commercial Services union said the event was building up to November 30 when a one-day strike by several unions could see up to three million public sector workers take industrial action.

Aberdeen Labour councillor, and a former head teacher, Barney Crockett was at the rally along with MSPs for North East Scotland, Richard Baker and Lewis Macdonald as well as Anne Begg, MP for Aberdeen South.

Mr Crockett slammed an announcement made on Friday that the council was set to shed 150 council jobs next year. He said, "The timing was deplorable. It's time for Aberdeen City Council to start working with staff not kicking them in the teeth."

Mum-of-three Kirsteen Heneghan, also addressed the rally, two of her children go to schools in the city. She said that she was concerned about



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the cuts and the affect they have not only on specialist provision for children with additional needs, but on classes as a whole. She told the rally, "It does not bode well for children's future. There has to be another way."

Thousands of people in Glasgow joined a similar

march yesterday, also in protest at government cuts. The People First rally involved politicians, trade unions and faith groups campaigning to protect those hardest hit by service and benefits cuts in the UK.

Grahame Smith, general secretary of the Scottish

Trades Union Congress, said: "We've been joined by thousands of people from all over Scotland today."

"This sends a clear message to the coalition Government and Tory Party conference that we need a Plan B now to avoid recession, rising poverty and damaging cuts in services."

one-on-one chances and hit the side-netting before the winning goal. "But I kept trying and eventually it came good. "I could have had a hat-trick or maybe even four. pull the trigger fast eventually. it came good. "I could have had a hat-trick or maybe even four. pull the trigger fast eventually. it came good. "I could have had a hat-trick or maybe even four. pull the trigger fast eventually. it came good.

"We made some wonderful chances," Butcher said, "and had some one-on-ones with their keeper and we missed a whole host of them. But, in the end,

have had a hat-trick as the Highlanders claimed a vital win. Tade squandered two one-on-one chances

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