2023

SIGOMA Manifesto

For a sustainable and fairer future

SIGOMA

Manifesto Contents

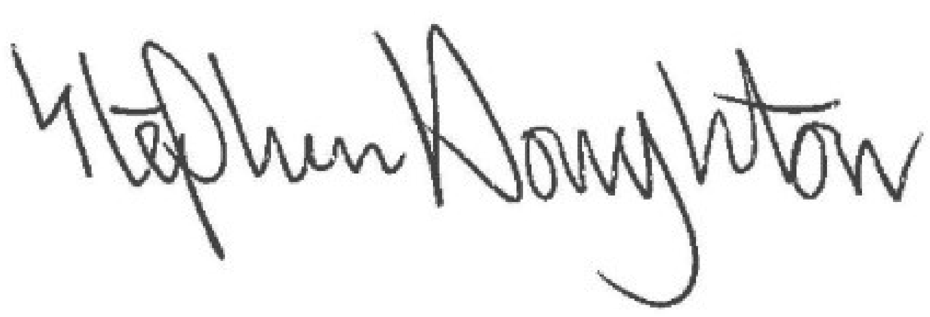
Introduction: A word from our Chair

This Manifesto sets out the path to a more sustainable and fairer future for Local Government and the country.

Local authorities provide vital services for their local communities and over the past 3 years have stepped up to support their residents through times of national importance, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

In this document we have detailed what central government can do for local government to ensure quality public services and fair distribution of resources.

Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton
Chair of SIGOMA



Local Government Finance

Reform of local government finance would bring greater fairness and provide stability for council funding.

Background

Since 2013 there has been a shift in the way local authorities are financed.

Two significant things have happened over this period.

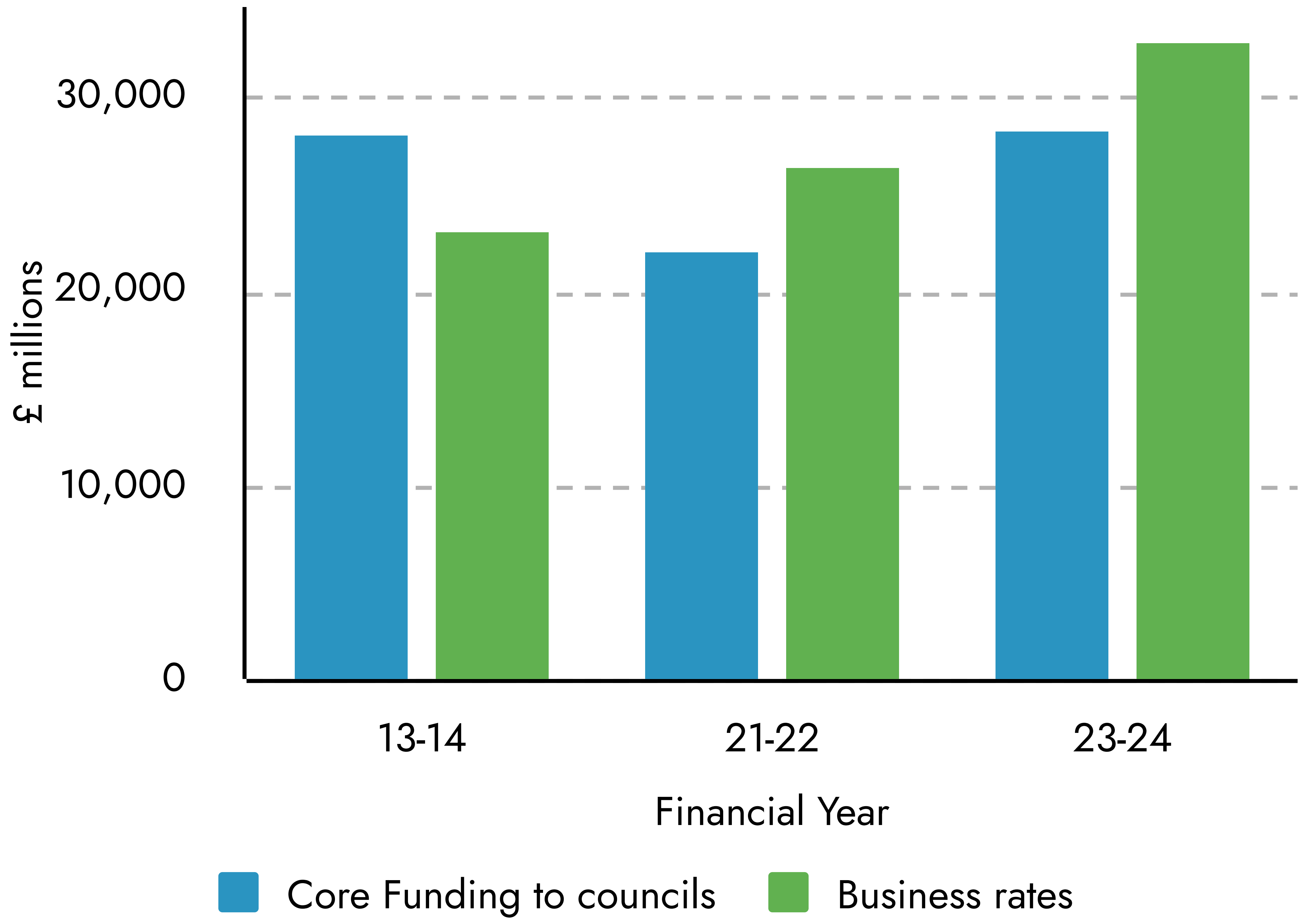
1. The level of core funding for councils has fallen behind the total amount of business rates raised.

Councils now receive £4,580 million less in grant and retained rates than is raised through the business rate system. In 2013-14, they received £4,930 million more – this is a reversal of £9,510 million.

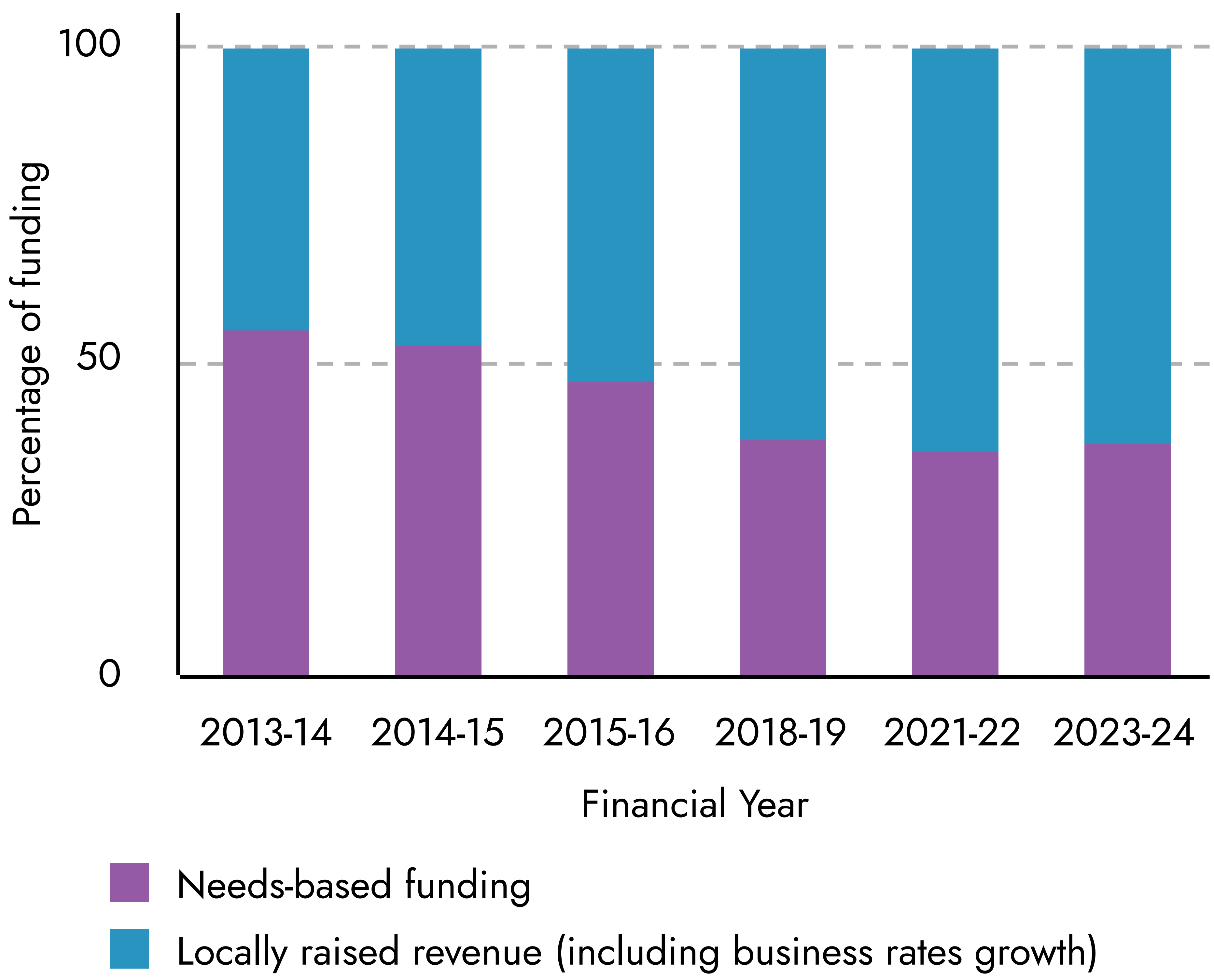
2. The proportion of funding from Government by grant has reduced while the amount raised from local taxes has increased. This has benefited the wealthiest areas who rely less on grant funding and who raise more from council tax, business rates and other growth based local funding sources.

The structures that support a fair distribution of funds raised through taxation have been replaced by ones that tend to reward high value housing stock and a large and thriving business rate base.

Changes in council Core Funding and business rates [1]



% of local authority funding from source [1]



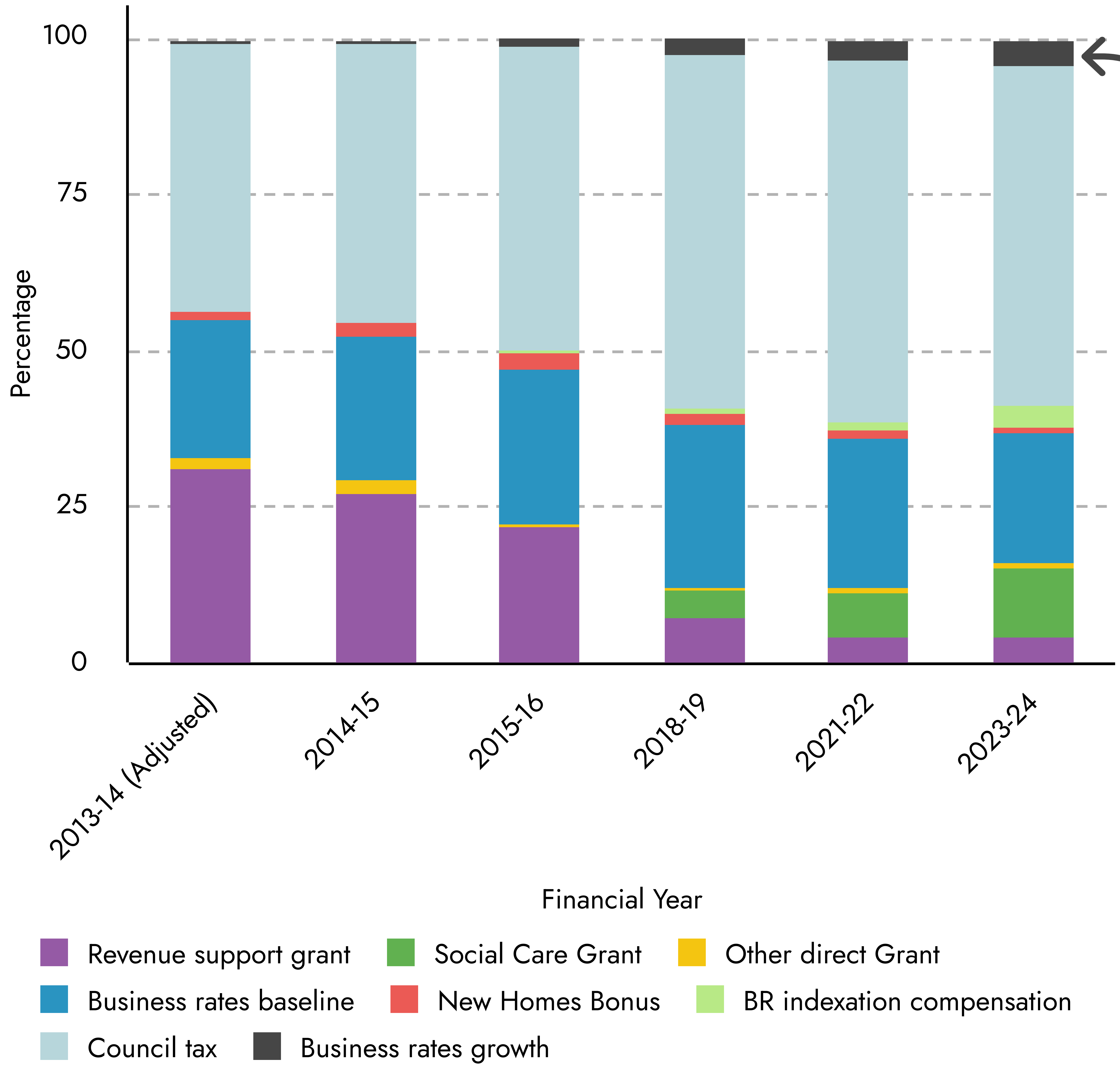
£763

SIGOMA real-term cut per dwelling [1]

£576

England real-term cut per dwelling [1]

Source of local government finance, including business rates growth [1]



Retained business rates growth is not counted as Core Spending Power, but forms an increasing proportion of total funding and is allocated by growth, not need.

The retention of growth in business rates began in 2013, with a **reset** planned for 2020. This reset has now been delayed until 2025. As a result, since 2020, around £10.5 billion of funding has been allocated based on growth rather than being distributed based on need. **Failure to reset business rates growth has unfairly disadvantaged the poorest councils over the last 4 years.**

This could have cost SIGOMA councils as much as £500 million over this period [1].

The system needs serious reform. Reversing the above trends will not happen overnight. The introduction of our **SIGOMA model** would reform local government finance to create a fairer funding system. **Implementing the model would require the 5 following steps.**

Our Asks

The SIGOMA Model: 5 Steps to a fairer funding future

STEP 1

The Government must publish data showing all un-ringfenced council revenue funding, including business rate growth, so that councils and the public have a clear idea of how much revenue funding is available at council level. This can be done now and should cover recent history.

STEP 2

We must move to a revenue funding model that:

a) Restores full distribution of business rates.
b) Recognises the primary importance of providing services i.e. needs formula
c) Considers the varying ability of councils to raise and grow funding locally.

The switch from incentive funding to needs funding must begin at the first available opportunity and be maintained. Retained business rates growth should diminish as a new needs formula is introduced and we would expect a transition fund would be introduced for those worst affected to provide a soft landing to their new needs share.

STEP 3

As soon as is reasonably practicable there must be a full or partial reset of business rates to allocate more funding according to needs. This is redistributive and would be revenue neutral.

STEP 4

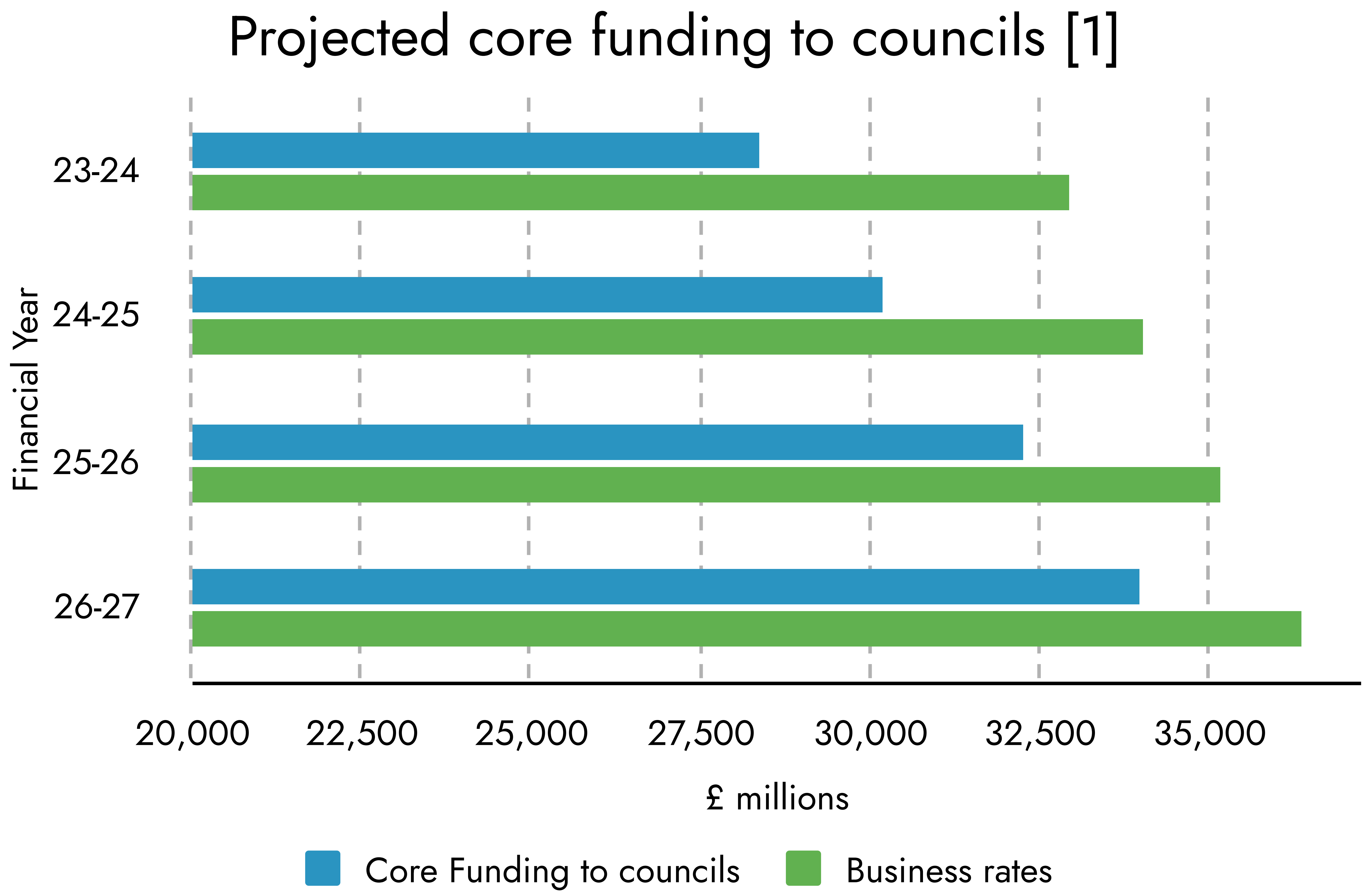
The existing needs formula should be populated with more up-to-date data, again neutral to the overall Budget, giving a distribution more relevant to current demographics.

This formula should also be updated for the latest council tax position of authorities reflecting more closely the total council tax base available to councils, as was done in 2013.

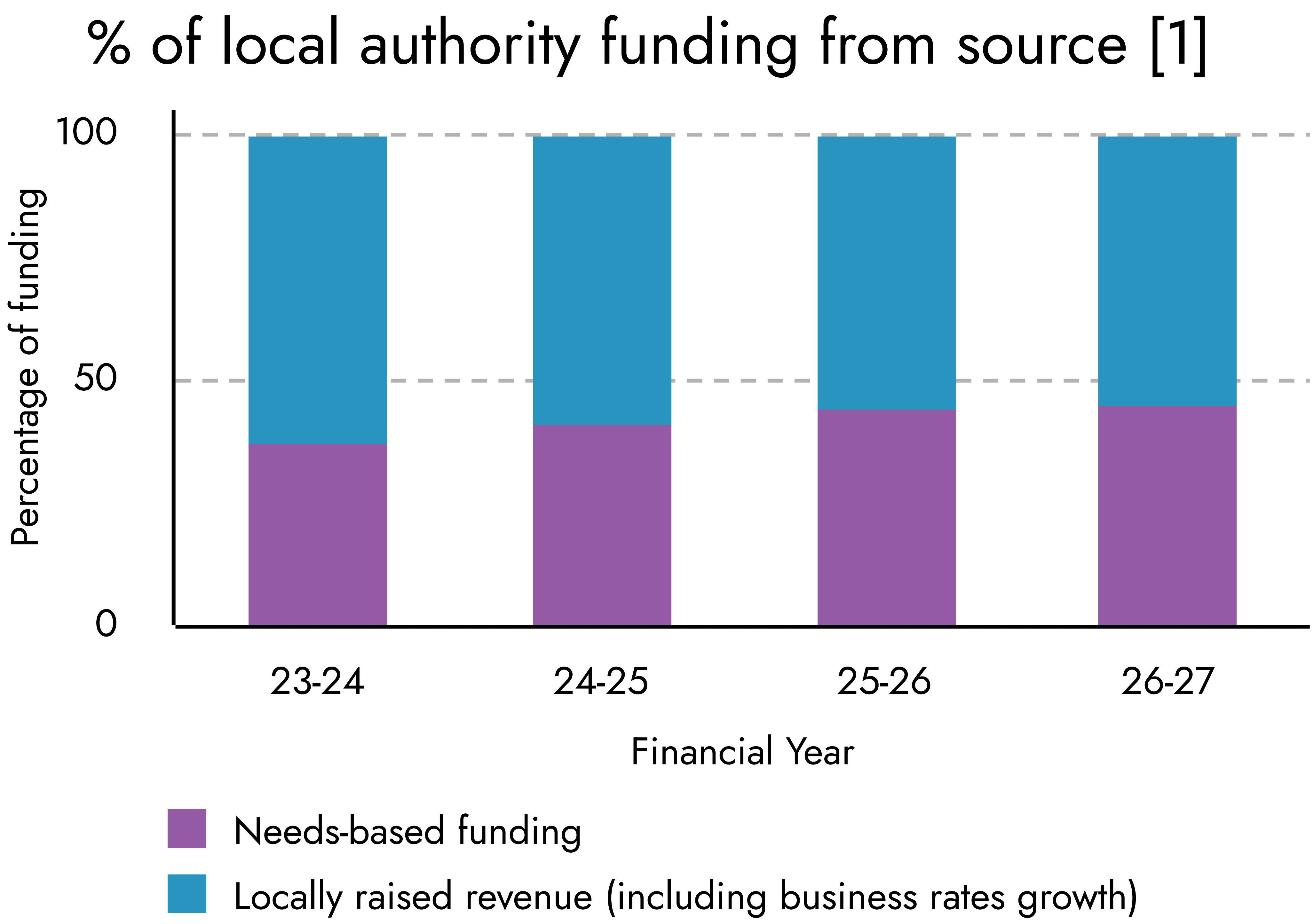
STEP 5

The Government should increase the proportions of rate income distributed as funding back up to the level of 100%, in 24-25 this would begin with the additional social care grant already planned in the Budget announcement.

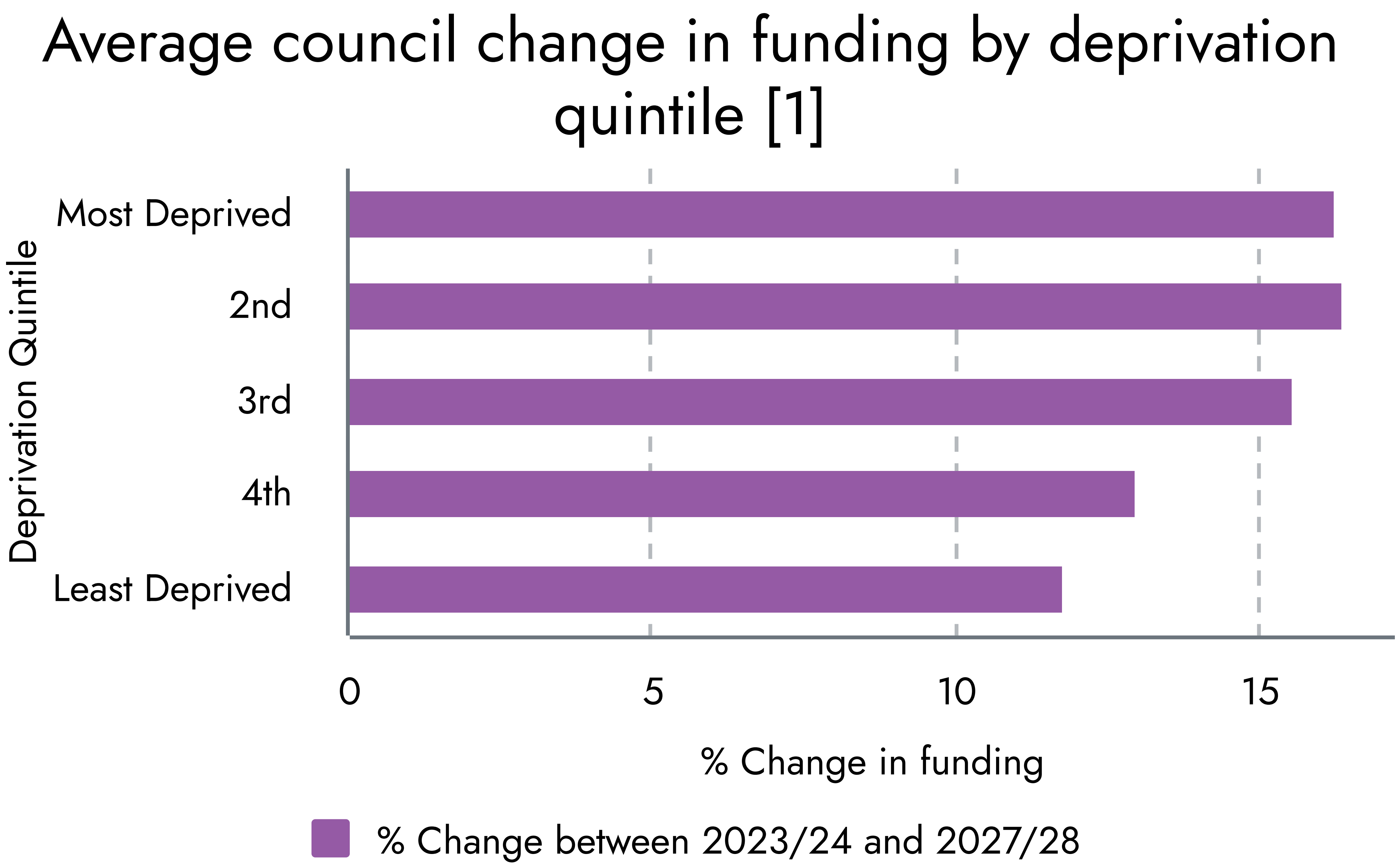
What would happen following our recommended reforms?



Our reforms would **increase overall funding by bringing back the principle that council funding should at least match the total amount of business rates raised.**



Our reforms would **increase the proportion of needs-based funding.**



A higher share of needs-based funding will mean **the most deprived authorities will see the largest increases.**

Levelling up

A levelling up policy that is properly targeted and focuses on delivering high-quality public services.

Background

The commitment to 'level up' the country is very welcome given the significant regional disparities that exist in the country.

However, many aspects of Government policy are actively harming the agenda and the 'levelling up' programme itself is flawed in content and scope.

Funding provided for the various Levelling Up Funds is a drop in the ocean compared to what has been lost through austerity since 2010/11. Failure to replace funding lost through austerity and match rising demand and inflationary pressure means that many councils are having to make cuts to services in the coming year. This goes directly against 'levelling up'.

£101m

Average SIGOMA cut for 23/24 compared to 2010/11 [1]

£20.7m

Average Levelling Up Fund allocation won per SIGOMA council [2]

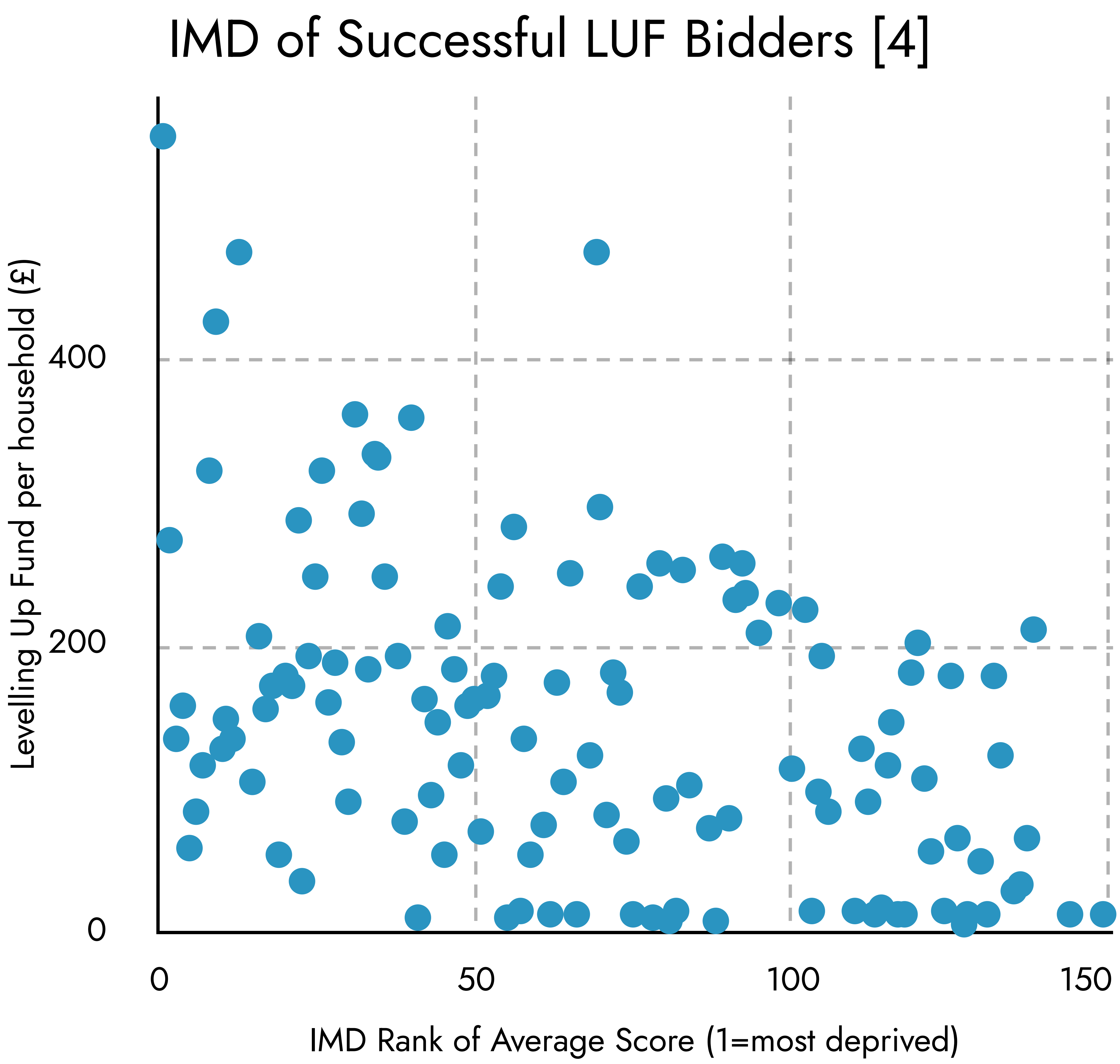
Meanwhile, the bidding process for limited funds has meant that many councils have wasted time and money, an estimated £30,000 per bid [3], preparing submissions whilst allocation methods have failed to effectively target the areas most in need, opening the Government up to criticism of potential political influence by ministers.

> "you can't level up everywhere, you have to choose"

Councillor Graham Chapman, SIGOMA vice-chair (Nottingham)

The Government have spread Levelling Up Fund allocations across the UK in order to get the 'best geographical spread' (Dehenna Davison to the LUHC Committee), however this has resulted in funding being distributed across the whole range of deprivation rankings, including to some of the least deprived areas in England. As our vice-chair Cllr Graham Chapman said, "you can't level up everywhere, you have to choose".

The chart below illustrates the lack of relationship between deprivation and Levelling Up funding.



Another key funding stream for the Government's levelling up ambitions is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which was introduced to replace funding lost following the UK's departure from the European Union. However, the UKSPF is distributed based on the EU's distribution of funds which no longer matches current need and introduces an arbitrary cliff edge. As a result Cornwall receives significantly more funding than areas that are similarly deprived, such as South Yorkshire. In addition to this, the funding provided through the UKSPF does not replace lost EU funds and must be spent within a period of 3 years, which is significantly shorter than the 7-year lifecycle of EU Funds.

Our Asks

- End the competitive bidding for funding pots.
- Properly target Levelling Up Funding to deprivation with stronger geographic focus.
- Reform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to reflect current need, replace lost EU funds and guarantee future rounds with the reintroduction of 7-year funding cycles.

Children's Services

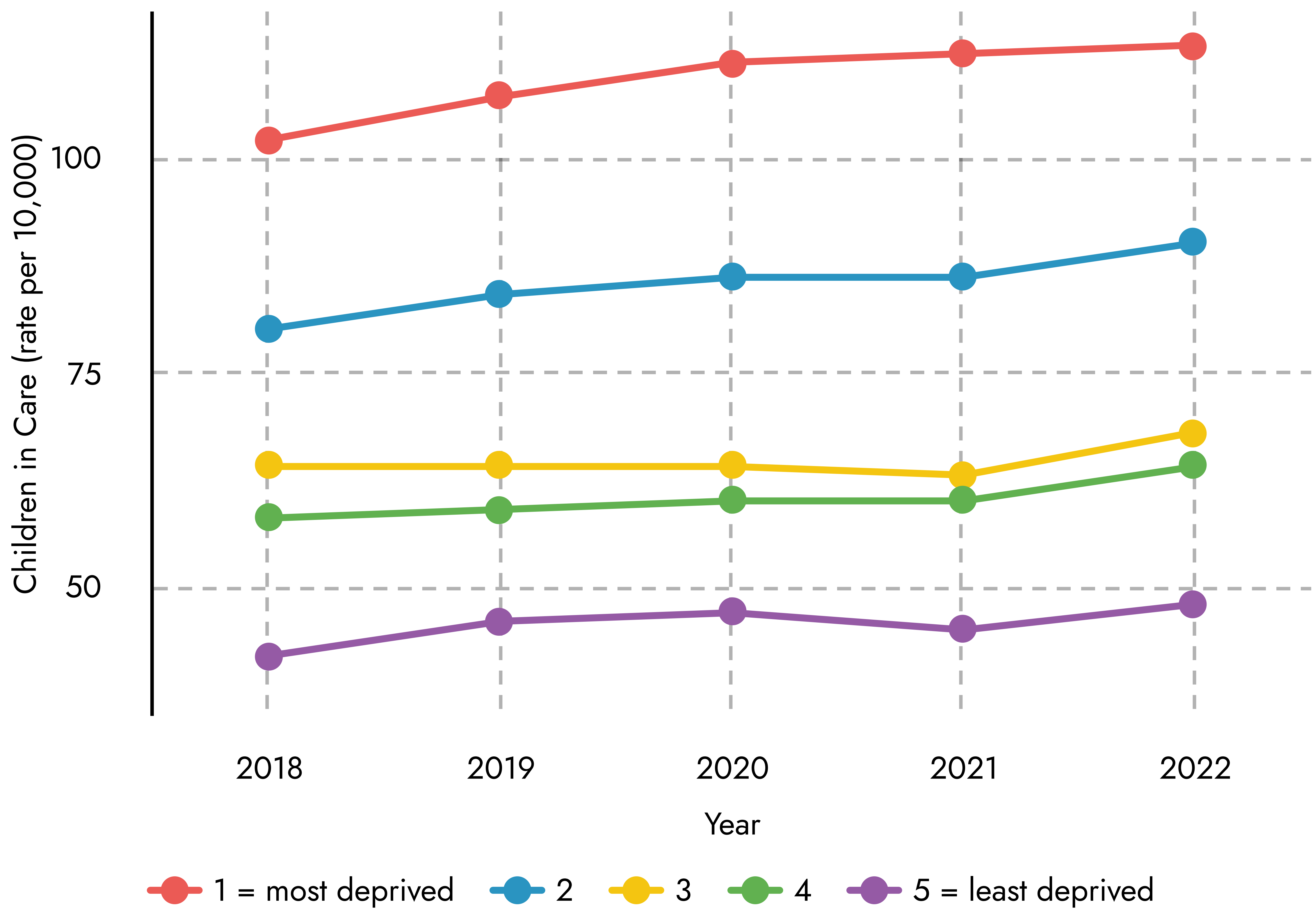
Increase funding to reflect the increase in demand and enable local authorities to focus on preventative spending.

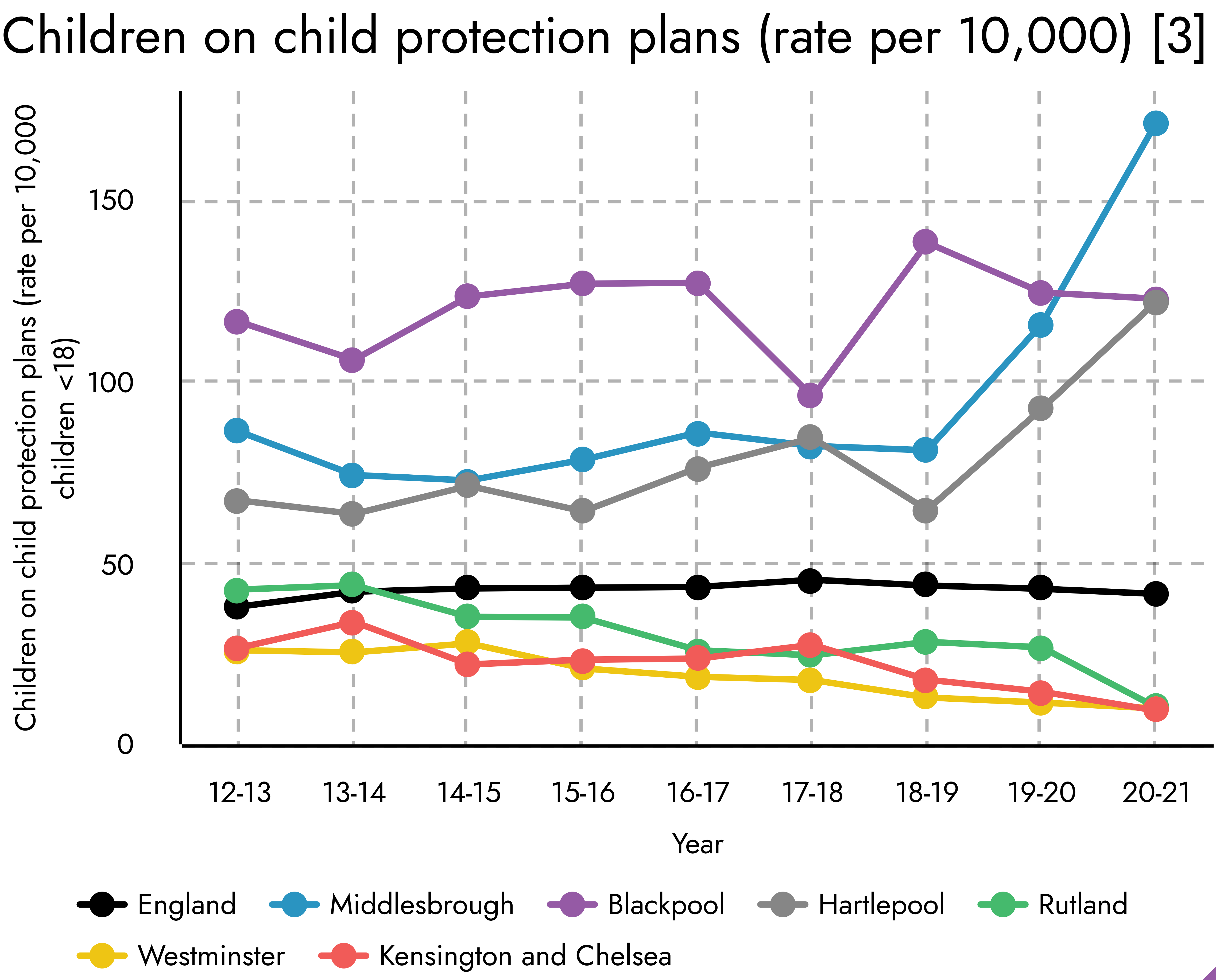
Background

For many of our members, Children's Services is reported to be the largest financial pressure on budgets. Increasing pressure on Children's Services have been recorded, with notable increases in the number of children in care, referrals to children's social care and child protection enquiries, without the increase in funding to match. These increases have been more notable in deprived areas.

There are issues around recruitment and retention of social workers in Children's Services, adding to existing pressures. Department for Education workforce statistics show that 20% of children's social worker posts were vacant in September 2022, up 21% from September 2021 [1]. Recruitment and retention issues, and increases in demand have resulted in high and unsustainable caseloads for children's social workers.

Children in Care (rate per 10,000) for each quintile of deprivation (IMD) [2]





In March 2021, the Government-commissioned Independent Review of Children's Social Care was launched, and the findings were published in May 2022 [4]. The recommendations from the review included an investment of £2.6 billion over 4 years to implement the recommended reforms. In February 2023, the Government published its plans for reforming Children's Social Care, which included £200 million funding over the next 2 years. This funding has been criticised by the sector as 'falling short' of what is required to 'fix' the challenges currently experienced in Children's Social Care [5].

Our Asks

- Provide more funding to Children's Services to enable filling of social work vacancies and a shift to preventative services.
- Adequately fund preventative, early years provision, such as Sure Start Centres, to support the levelling up agenda.
- Recognise the importance of a full reset of Children's Social Care by implementing the recommendations from the MacAlister Independent Review of Children's Social Care, including investing £2.6bn to make the reforms.

Adult Social Care

Funding support for local authorities to provide high-quality social care that meets local need

Background

Adult Social Care funding has not kept up with demand since 2010/11.

0.4%

Increase in Adult Social Care spending between 2010/11 and 2019/20 [1].

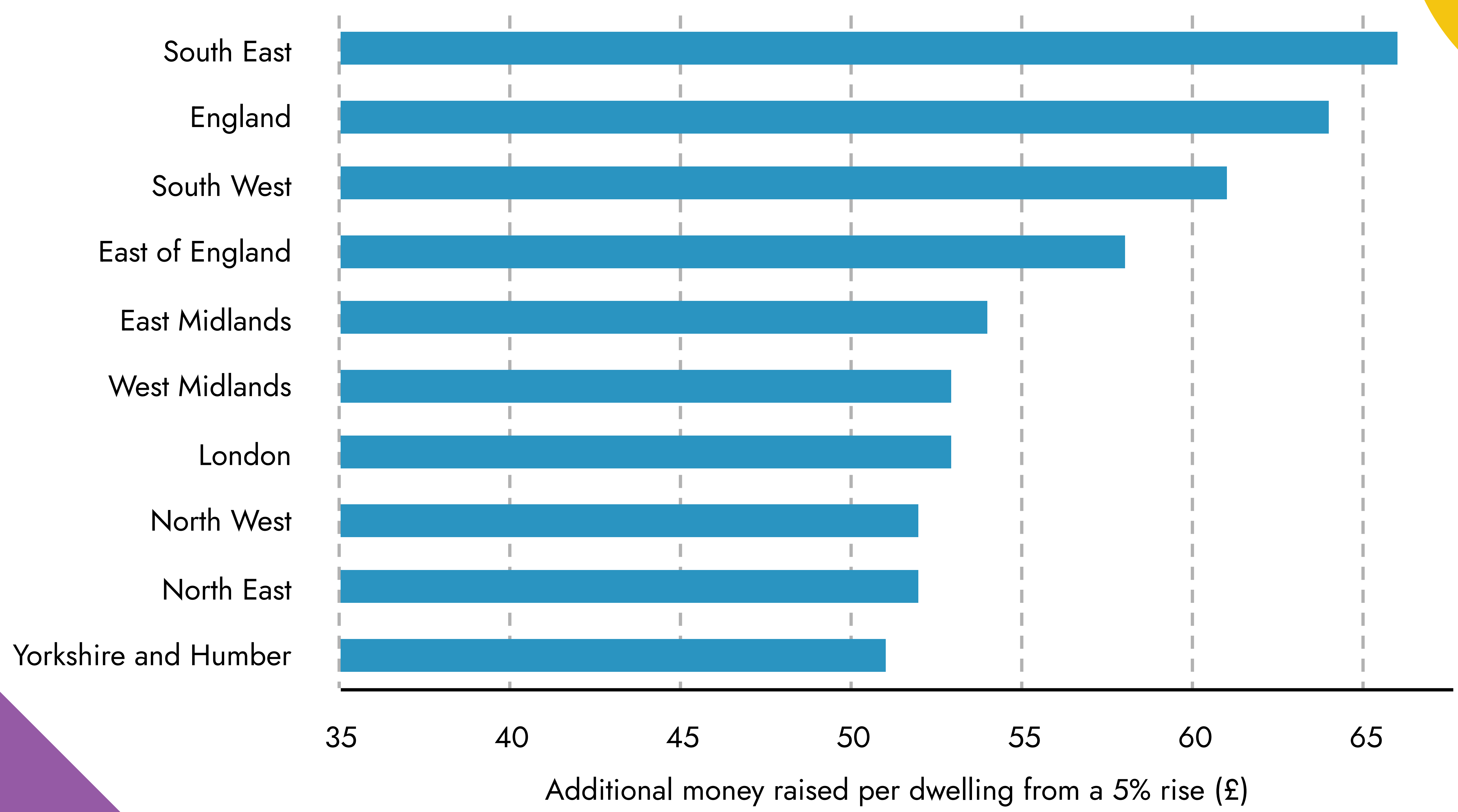
23%

Increase in the population of over-65s between 2010/11 and 2019/20 [1].

An increasing proportion of Adult Social Care funding is reliant on the social care precept, an add-on to council tax, which doesn't match funding with service demand.

In the 2023-24 Local Government Finance Settlement, £160 million of Social Care Grant was set aside to partially equalise the social care precept for those authorities with a lower tax base. However, this partial equalisation did not go far enough, and as a result SIGOMA councils missed out on £18 million of additional Social Care Grant funding [2].

Regional impact of a 5% council tax rise (2023-24) [3]



As an illustration of the postcode lottery created by the social care precept, research by Carnall Farrar and IPPR found that the percentage of care provided at home varies widely across local authorities, ranging from 46% in Barnsley to 84% in Hammersmith and Fulham [4]. Care at home is strongly preferred by those receiving care, and has been evidenced to increase independence and improve quality of life. Care at home reduces the chance of the care recipient occupying a hospital bed without a clinical need and means that care recipients are less likely to be forced into residential or nursing home care before they need it [4].

Lack of capacity in Adult Social Care is creating backlogs and delays in A&E departments as high percentages of patients medically fit for discharge are unable to be discharged without care in place.

83%

of England's care home beds are owned by for-profit private companies

Local authorities are now having to pay more for social care, due to the Fair Cost of Care initiative and increasing use of for-profit private social care companies. In 2019, research by IPPR found that 83% of England's care home beds are owned by for-profit private companies, which results in some local authority funding being taken as profit by social care providers [5].

This is in addition to a recruitment and retention crisis in Adult Social Care, which often ends in local authorities relying on more expensive agency staff. Data from Skills for Care shows, in 2021/22, the number of paid carers reduced by 50,000 and turnover of staff in the Adult Social Care sector was 29% in the same year, an increase of 10.2% on the turnover rate from 2012/13 [6].

Only 46%

of care provided in Barnsley is care provided at home

Our Asks

- In the short term, fully equalise the social care precept in the Social Care Grant.
- In the long term, remove the social care precept and replace it with a needs-based grant funding.
- Conduct a review of profit in the Adult Social Care sector and provide fair funding for the Fair Cost of Care initiative.
- Introduce price caps for agency adult social workers to end the bidding contests taking place between local authorities to secure social workers.

Transport

Increased investment in transport infrastructure to support the levelling up agenda and protect public transport

Background

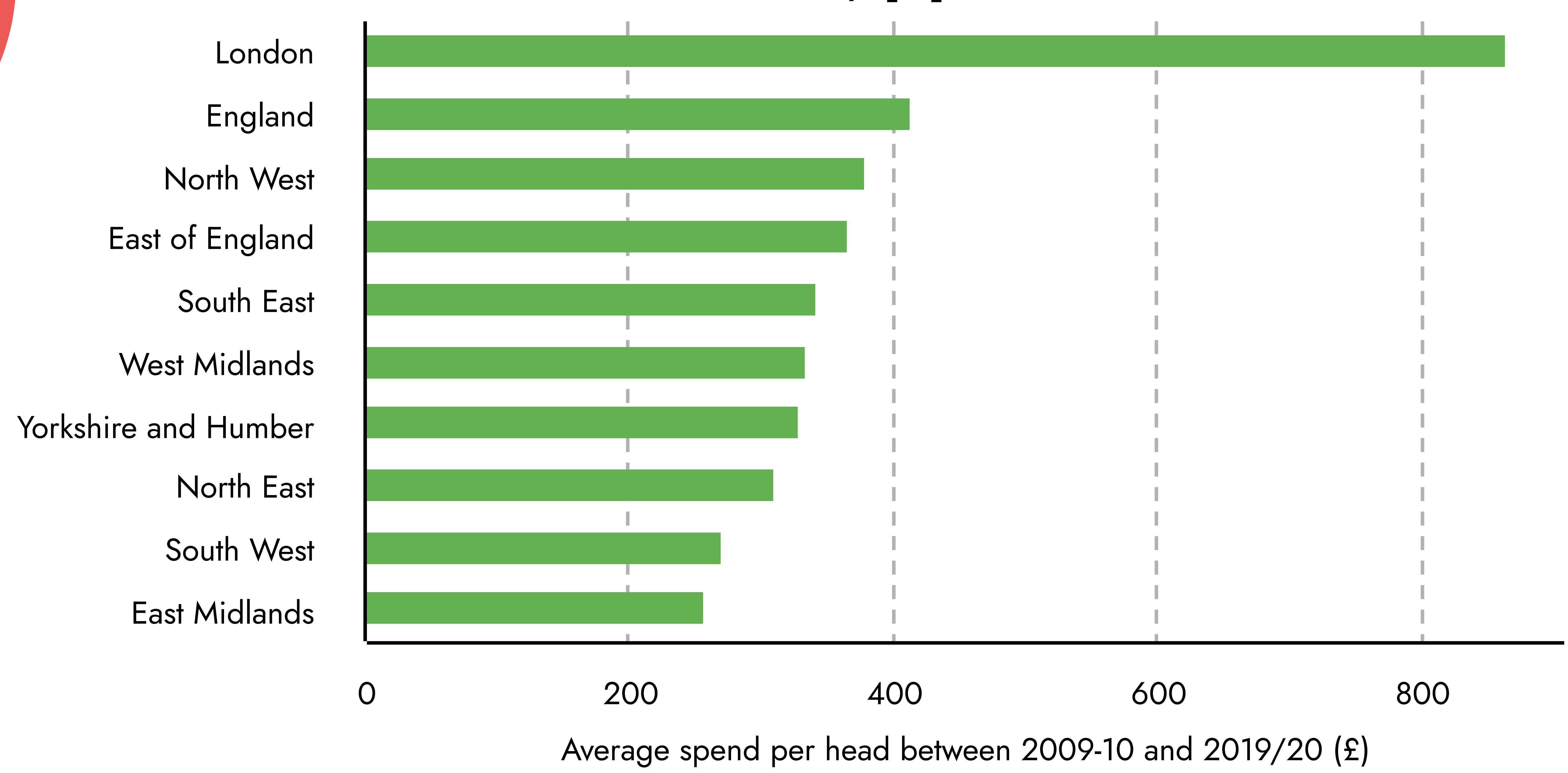
Investment in transport is vital to the Levelling Up agenda as access to transport provides access to jobs and attracts development and investment to new areas. Regional disparity has increased in England as investment in transport infrastructure outside of London has fallen dramatically behind transport investment in London.

Nowhere is this more evident than with Northern Powerhouse Rail, a new high-speed rail line outlined in the Integrated Rail Plan and a key part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The aim of Northern Powerhouse Rail is to transform transport connections across the Midlands and the North, and increase rail capacity, to boost the North's economy.

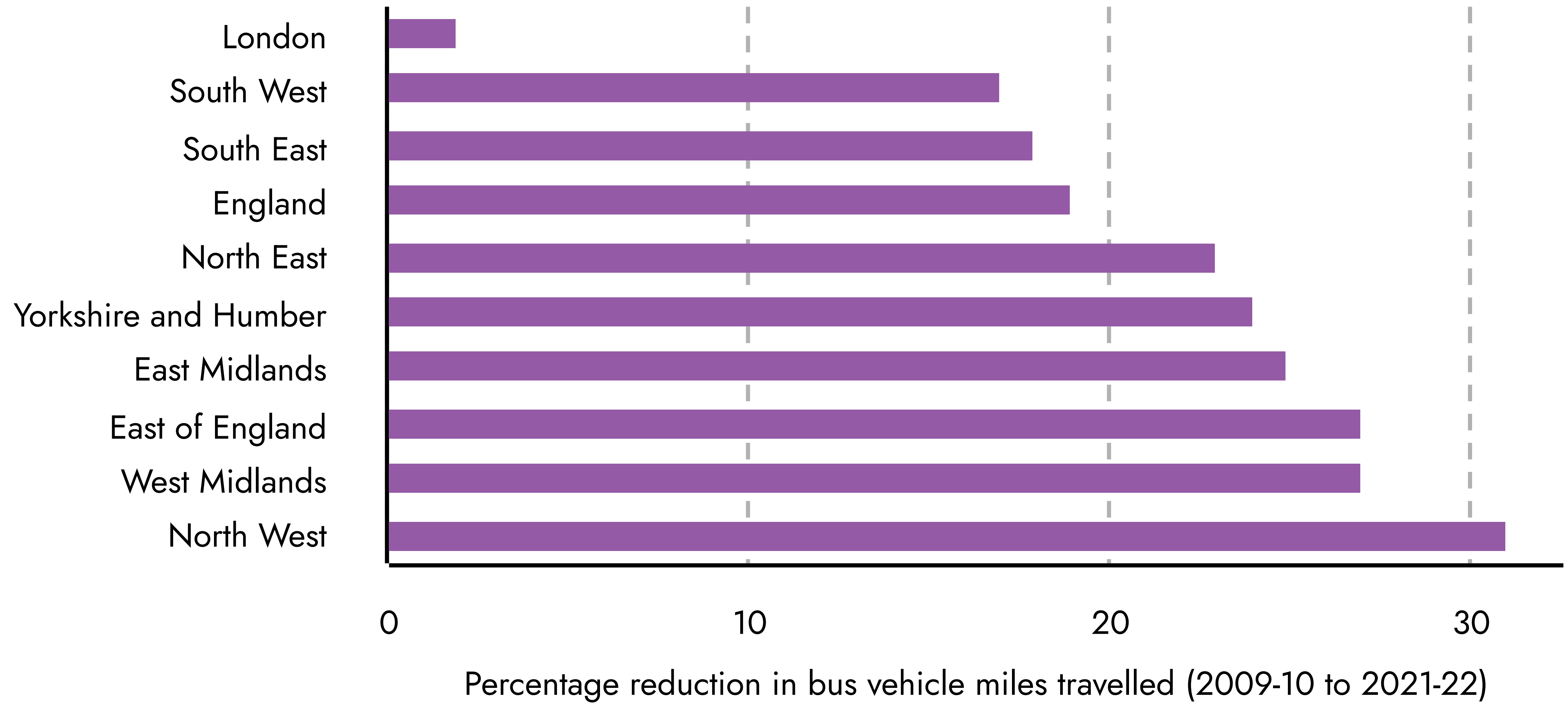
Yet there has been repeated delays to transport infrastructure projects in the North, such as Northern Powerhouse Rail, and uncertainty over what will be delivered.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Government supported bus services with the Bus Recovery Grant, which enabled services to continue operating at a time when passenger numbers had fallen by 15%. With bus passenger numbers remaining below pre-pandemic levels, the Government has continued to support bus services with short-term support, often announced at the last minute. But even with Government support, over 1,000 bus services were lost in 2022, with many more now at risk without long-term funding from Government [1].

Regional average transport spend per head (2009-10 to 2019/20) [2]



Reduction in bus vehicle miles travelled (2009-10 to 2021-22) [3]

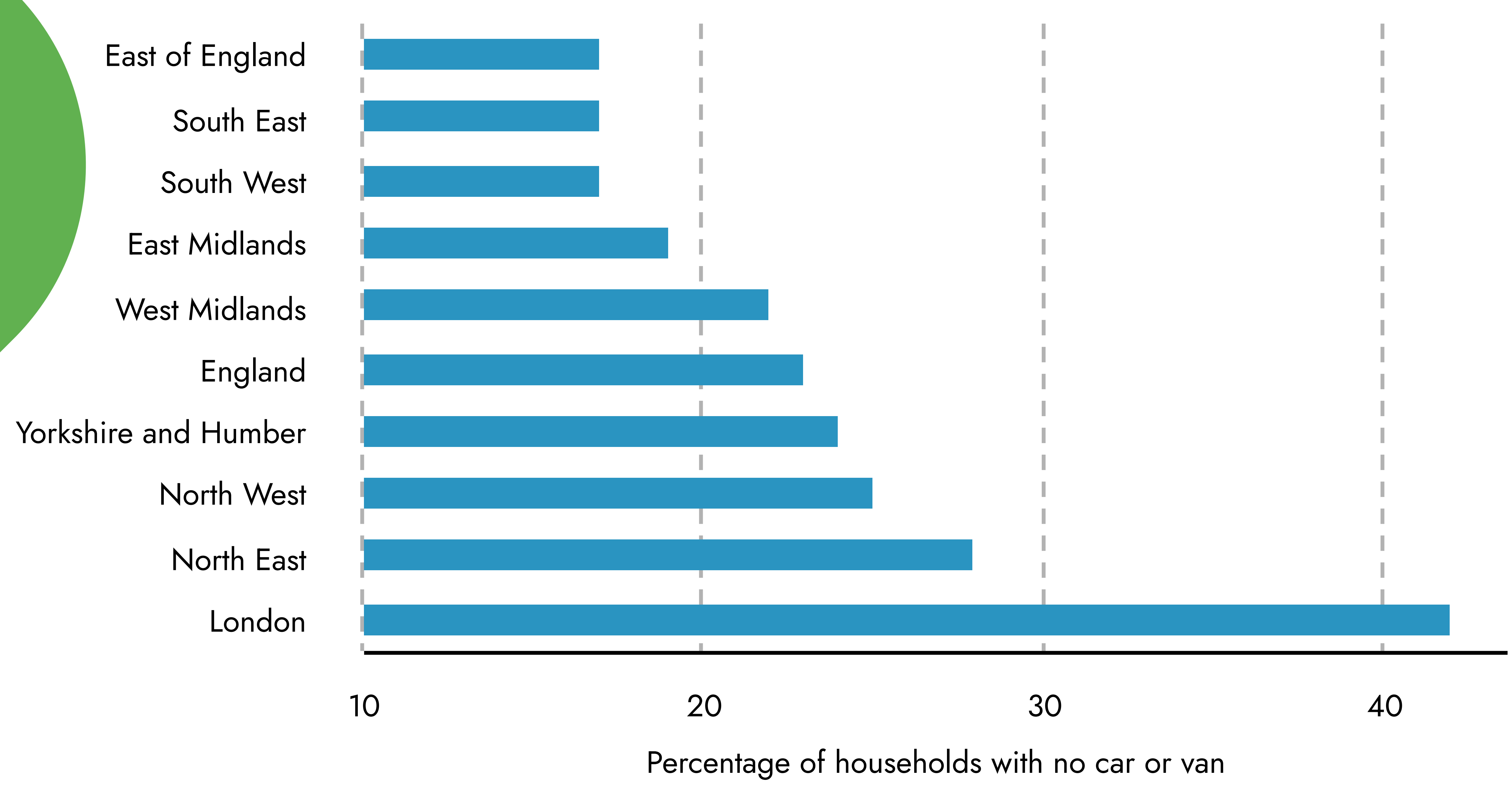


Active travel is a mode of transport based around human physical activity, and has received growing attention due to its health and environmental benefits. Research has found that people living in the most deprived areas are more likely to use active travel than those living in the least deprived areas [4]. This is likely a result of reduced car ownership and other viable transport options in the most deprived areas. Active travel investment is vital in the regions with low car ownership, which, excluding London, are areas that have seen the largest reduction in bus vehicle miles travelled and the smallest transport spend per head.

Our Asks

- Provide further investment and spend on transport infrastructure outside of London and prosperous parts of the South East to reach parity on spend per capita.
- Focus more on regional transport projects such as completion of the Northern Powerhouse Rail, in full, to assist in 'levelling up'.
- Provide long-term revenue funding settlements for bus services to prevent local services being cut.
- Continue to commit to the promotion of active travel and investment in active travel infrastructure.

Percentage of households with no car or van [5]



Public Health

Adequate funding for local authorities to deliver vital, preventative public health services.

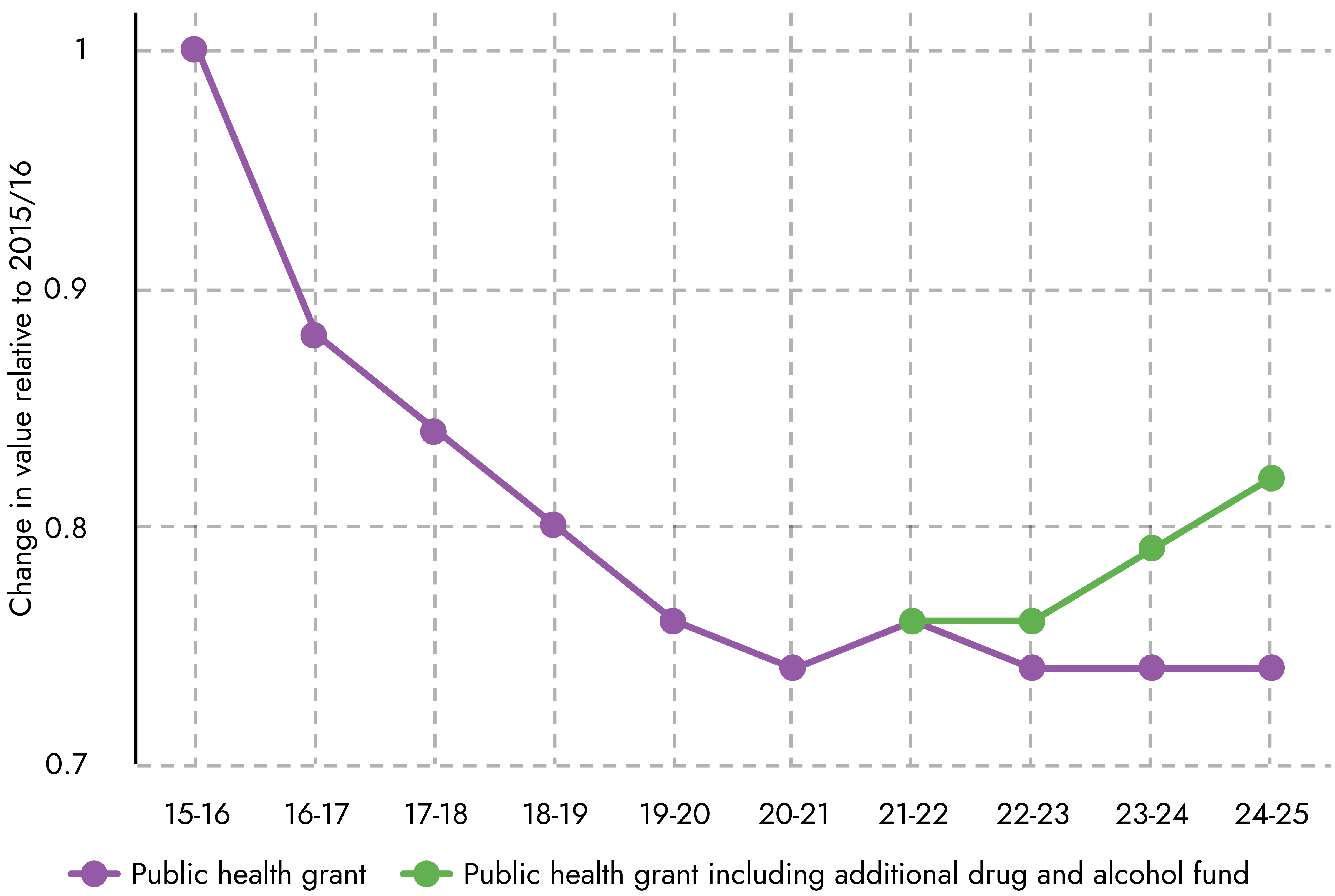
Background

Public Health is vital in helping people to live healthy lives; however, Public Health funding has been continually cut in real-terms since 2010/11.

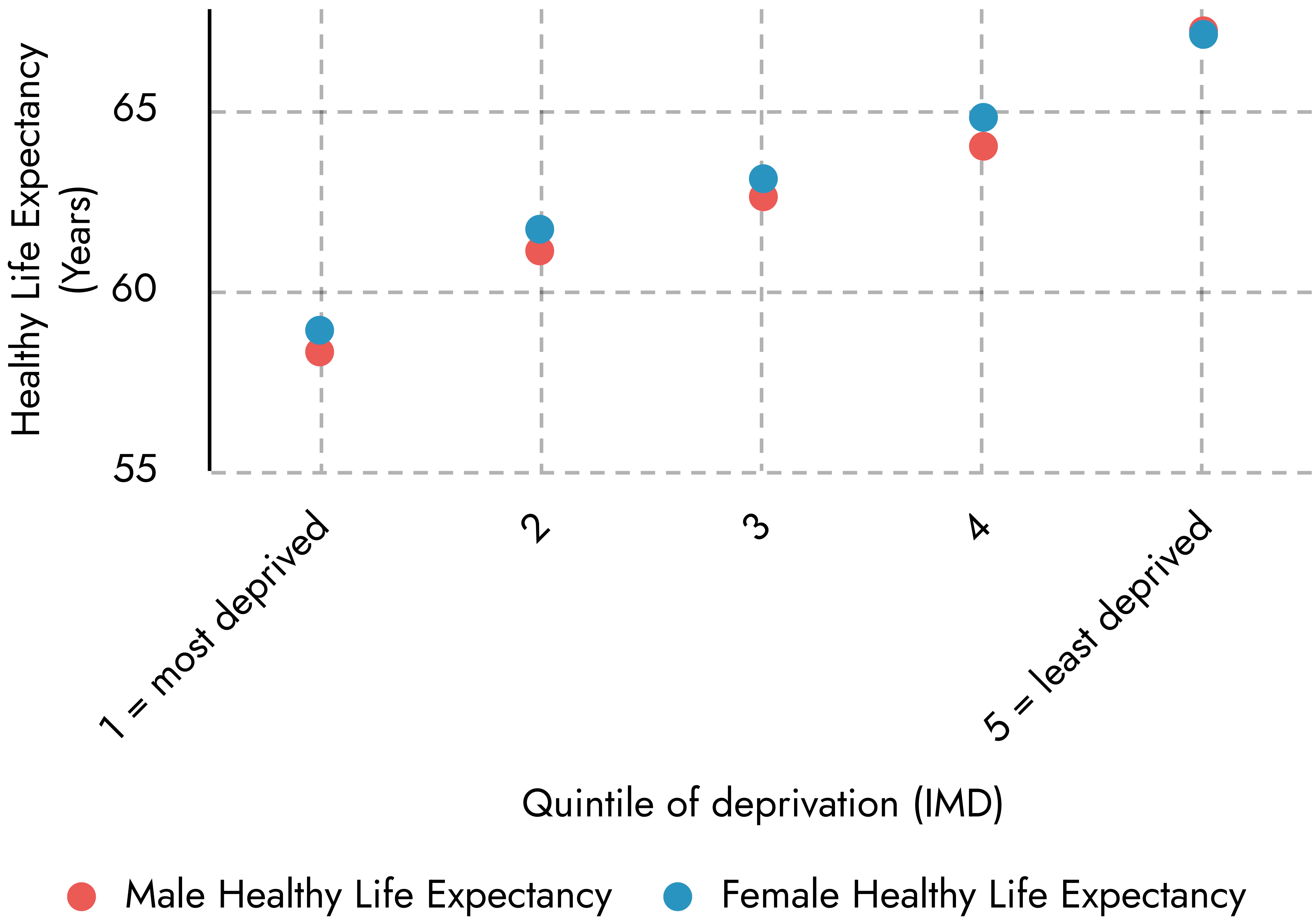
These cuts to Public Health spending have resulted in significant reductions in expenditure on stop smoking services (41%), drug and alcohol services (28%), and sexual health services (23%) [1].

Cuts to Public Health run counter to 'levelling up' and risk widening health inequalities even further. Research has indicated that cuts to Public Health funding have occurred alongside declining health [2]. In 2023-24, councils saw their Public Health funding increase by 3.3%, at a time when inflation was running at 10.4%.

Real terms decline per person in England public health grant [1]



Healthy Life Expectancy [3]



The problems are exacerbated by inexplicable delays in announcing Public Health funding, sometimes just weeks before the commencement of the financial year and after councils have set their own budgets and council tax.

Investing in Public Health provides value for money, with one research study finding that the cost of one additional year in good health through public health interventions was £3,800, compared to a cost of £13,500 for NHS clinical interventions [4].

Our Asks

- Increase the Public Health Grant by real-terms to enable councils to adequately fund preventative services.
- Include greater recognition in funding allocations of poverty-related health conditions, influenced by factors such as housing, income and access to green spaces.
- Announce Public Health funding earlier in the year to allow for better planning and a greater focus on long-term services.

Housing

Support for local authorities to develop high quality council housing and an end to the New Homes Bonus scheme which top-slices funding to wealthier areas.

Background

Research has suggested that there is a shortage of almost 4 million homes in the UK [1]. There is a significant need for new house building, especially affordable homes and social housing.

Planning departments are not to blame for a lack of house-building – the LGA have estimated that there are currently a million planning permissions going unused. Between 2009-10 and 2021-22, planning permission was granted to around 3.3 million housing units but only 2.2 million housing units were still completed in that time [1]. Developers hold on to land whilst it increases in value, leaving the land empty and undeveloped ('land banking').

New powers, such as an undeveloped land tax, could encourage the building of new homes and increase development, whilst providing local authorities with revenue where 'land banking' is taking place.

The New Homes Bonus, an incentivisation scheme for house building for councils, has not generated the housing where it is needed and has resulted in funding being top-sliced from the Revenue Support Grant. Funding from the New Homes Bonus top-slice has disproportionately gone to already wealthy authorities, disadvantaging more deprived authorities who would have received that funding had it been distributed based on need.

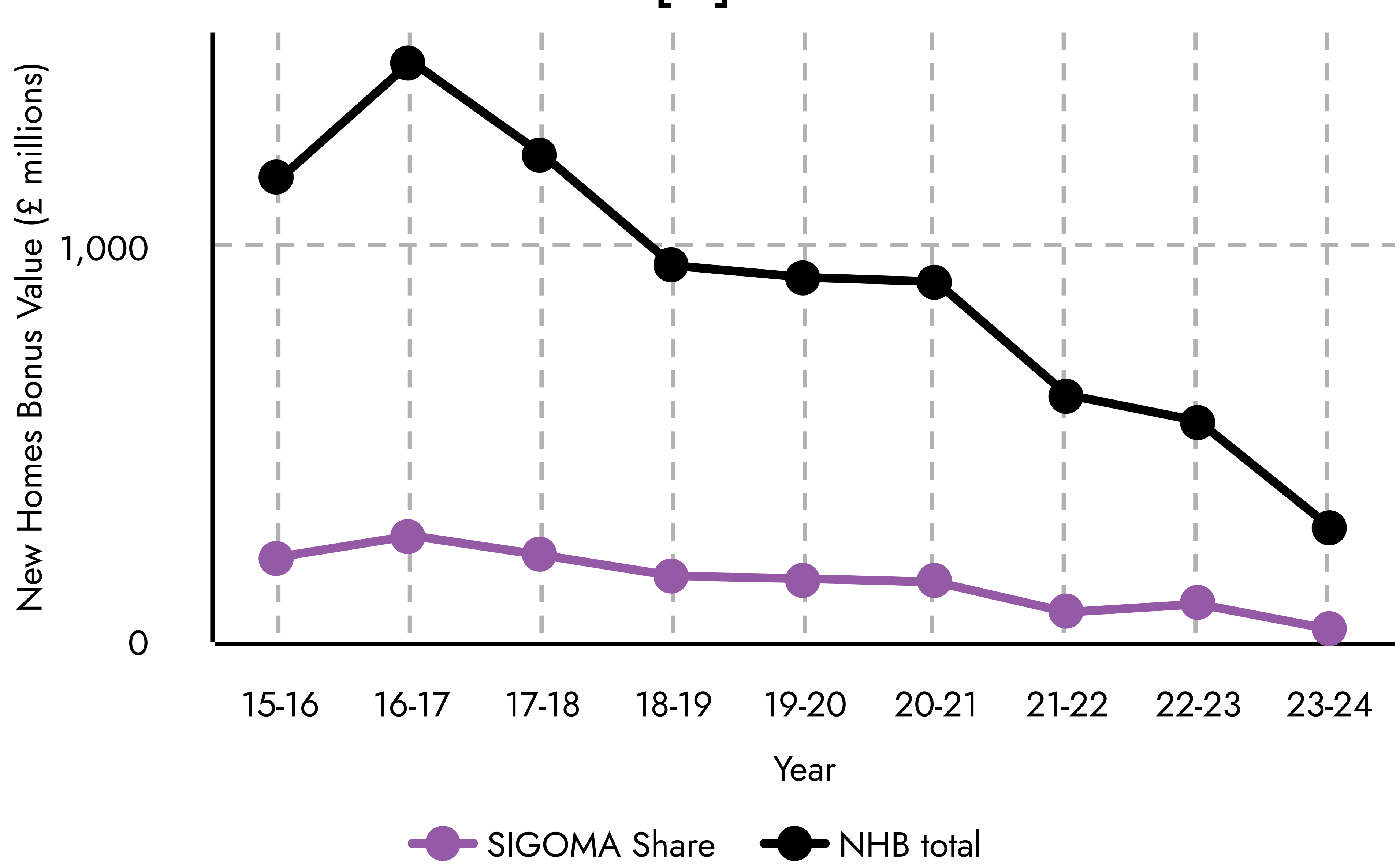
340,000

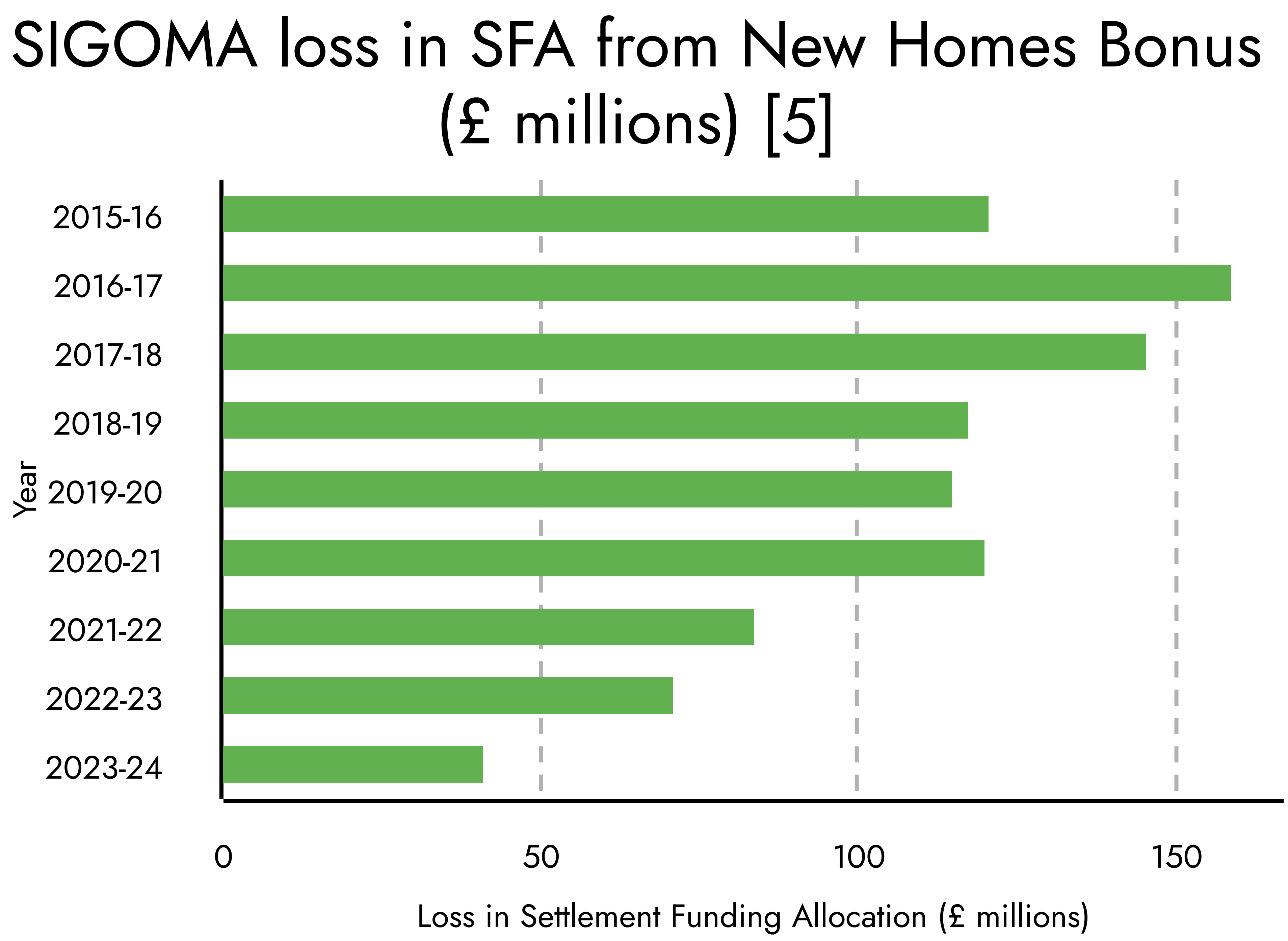
houses a year need to be built over the next 15 years to meet demand (UK) [2]

204,530

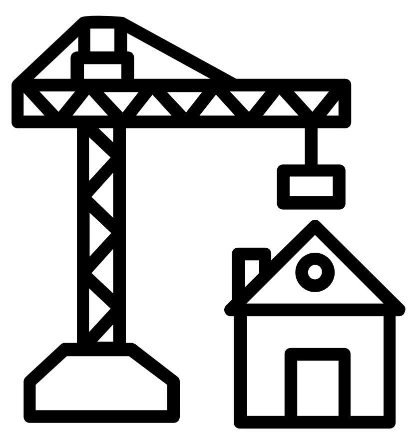
houses were completed in the 2021-22 financial year (UK) [3]

SIGOMA share of New Homes Bonus Funding [4]



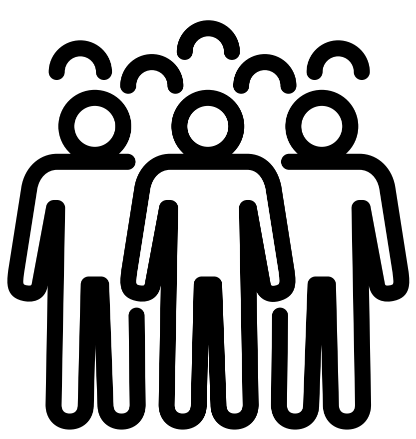


Government intervention around right-to-buy has prevented councils re-investing right-to-buy receipts into replenishing their social housing stock. This has led to a steady decline in social housing in many areas.



6,287

new social homes delivered in 2018-19 [6]



1.1 million

people on the social housing waiting list in 2018-19 [6]

This has had a detrimental impact on access to affordable housing in many areas, leading to large social housing waiting lists, increasing numbers of homeless households living in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation and growing numbers of households presenting as homeless and/or rough sleeping.

Our Asks

- New powers, such as an undeveloped land tax, to force developers to use land for house building or other developments.
- Investigate how best to capture land value uplift schemes for local government or combined authorities.
- End to the New Homes Bonus and instead developing a new needs-based grant scheme to build new high-quality social housing.
- Make permanent amendments to right-to-buy to allow councils to re-invest proceeds from the scheme to build new social housing stock and reduce the arbitrary reductions in sale price.
- Review the future of right-to-buy with a view to creating a more sustainable system for social housing stock whilst maintaining an accessible route to home ownership.

Devolution

Meaningful devolution to allow local areas more control over issues like skills and transport and proper funding rather than devolving cuts to local areas.

Background

Research by IPPR North has highlighted that power in the UK is more centralised than any other comparable country. With central government holding most of the decision-making power, regional inequalities have persisted, and the divides across health, jobs, income and productivity are wider than comparable countries [1].

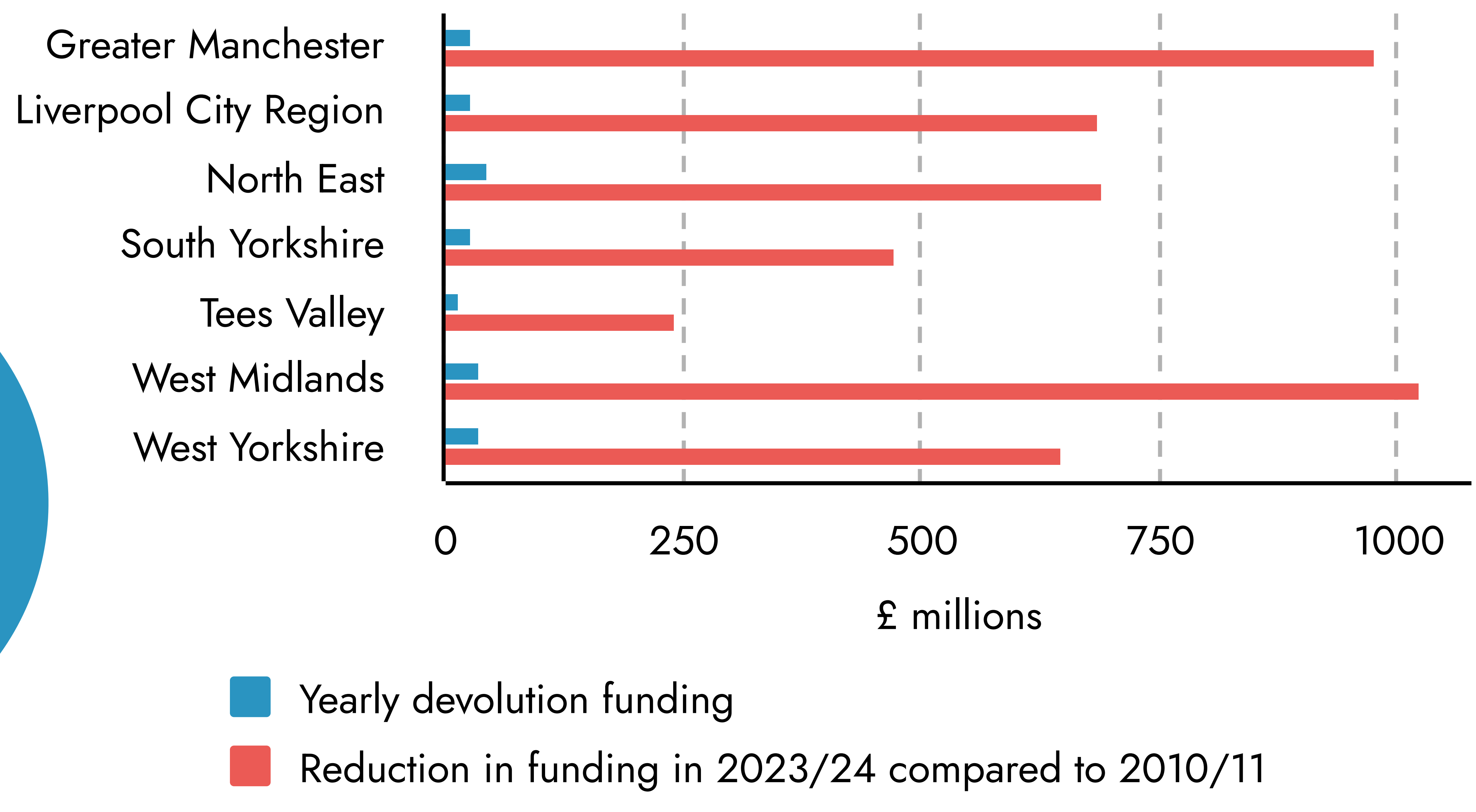
Since 2014, certain powers and funding has been devolved to areas outside of London through devolution deals. These devolved powers have been linked to successes in addressing inequalities and growing the economy. For example, research by the University of Manchester, found that devolving powers to Greater Manchester has had a positive impact on life expectancy [2].

Arguably, much of the success from devolution will be due to the local knowledge local leaders hold on their area, demonstrating the importance of Government allowing more decision-making to be made at a local level.

Devolution in Greater Manchester has had a positive impact on life expectancy in the area

Although devolution deals have been successful, the funding allocated to devolution deals still does not replace the funding lost through austerity.

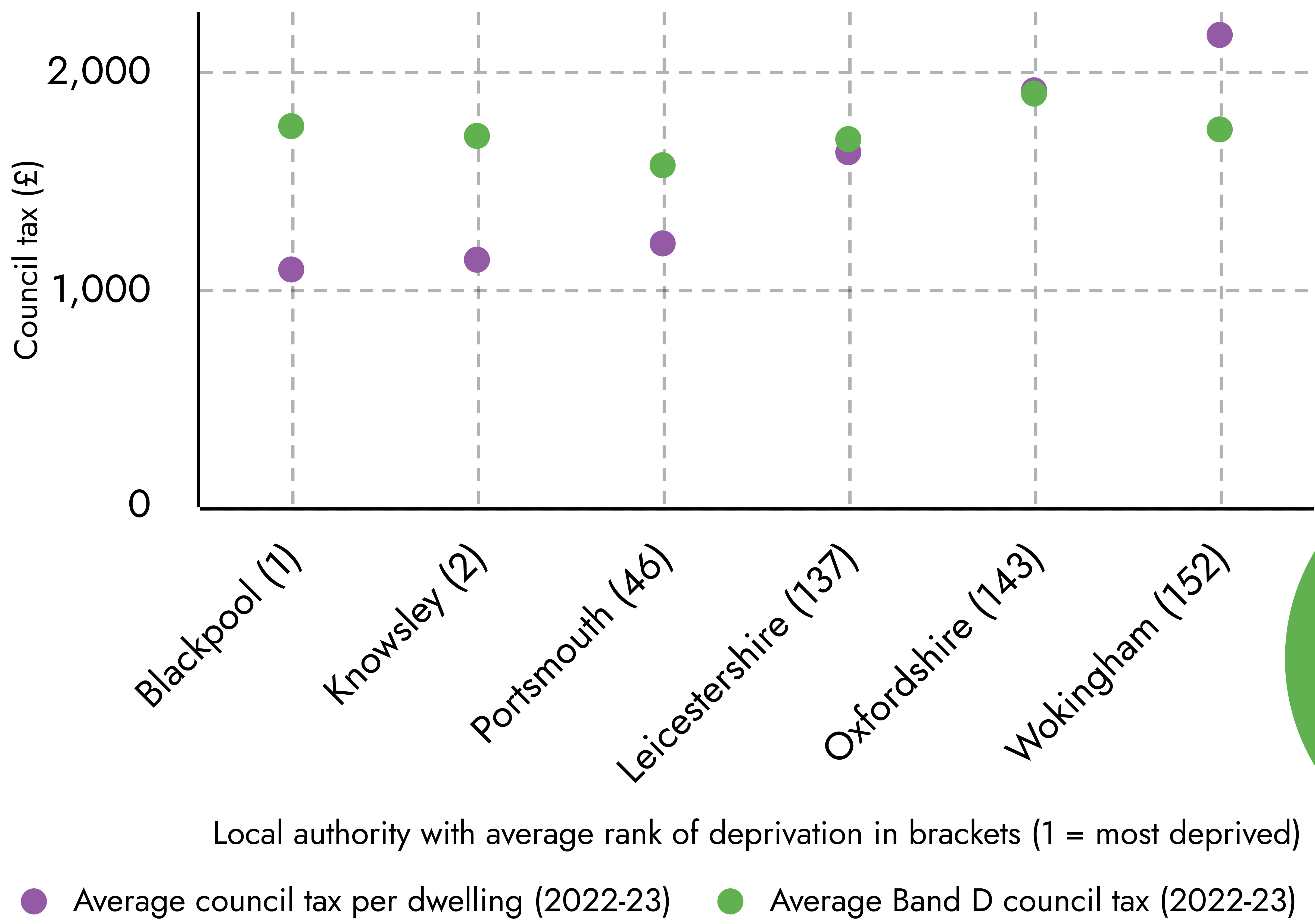
Devolution funding vs funding lost due to austerity [3]



As the Government embarks on further devolution following the success of completed deals to date, care must be taken around further fiscal devolution. Revenue raising powers vary hugely across the country, and further fiscal devolution could risk widening regional inequalities as more deprived areas, less able to raise local revenue, fall behind wealthier areas.

Due to a lower proportion of high banded houses, poorer councils raise less tax from the same Band D charge.

Average council tax per dwelling vs average Band D council tax [4]



Our Asks

- Focus on expanding powers in existing devolution deals where there is local demand, such as new additional funding deals for skills and transport, in addition to new devolution deals.
- Be open to larger deals to allow for greater use of scale.
- Recognise the benefit of the local knowledge held by local leaders for making decisions and investments in local areas.
- Take care to ensure that if fiscal powers are devolved that this does not create greater regional divergence by providing a re-distributive element to ensure that poorer areas are not left further behind.

Education

Provide the appropriate funding and guidance to help education institutions and local authorities deliver education and skills training for all.

Background

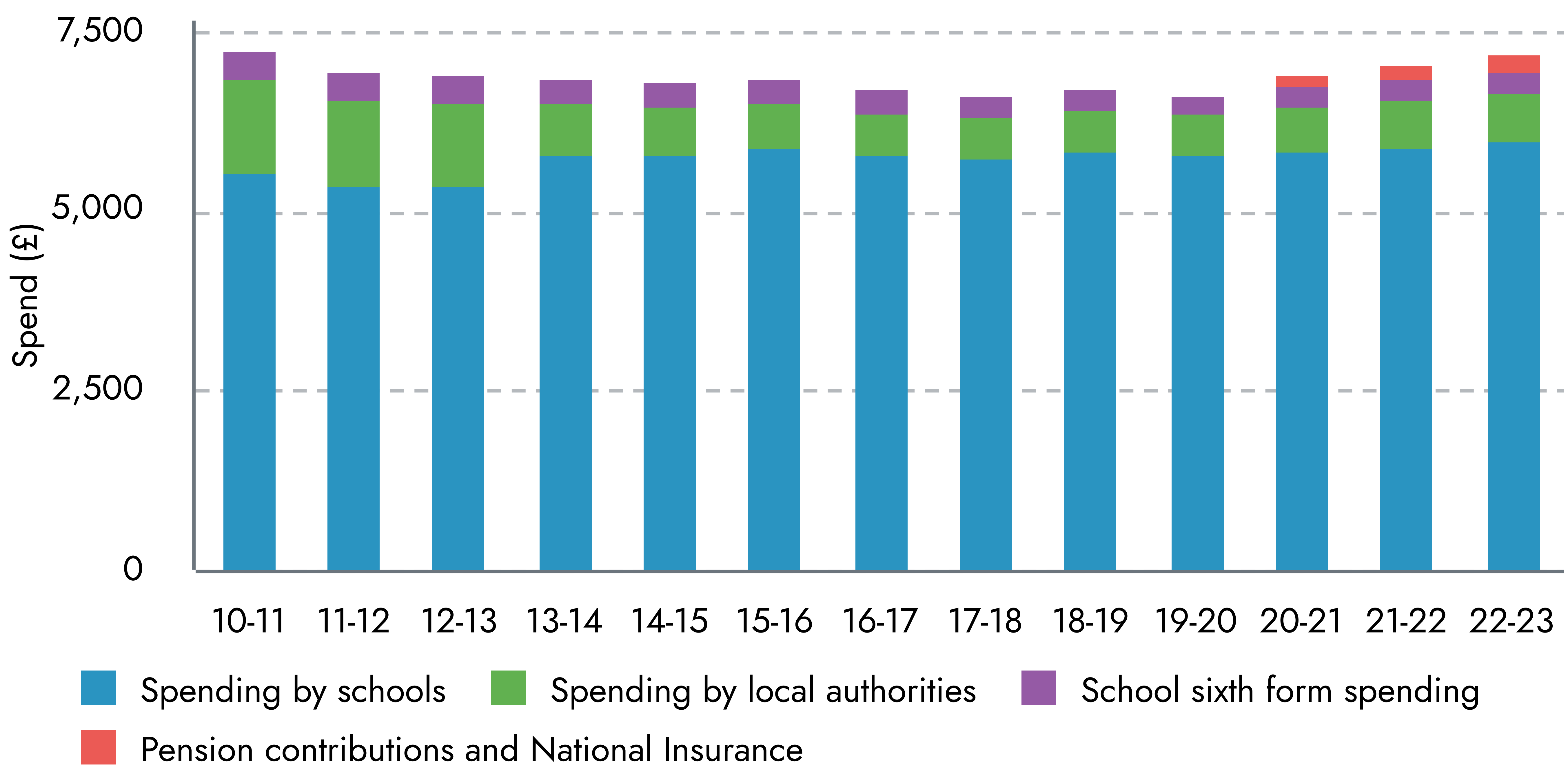
The 2022 Autumn Statement announced an extra £2.3 billion of funding to schools in England. Whilst this funding is welcome in helping schools meet their rising costs, it does not replace funding lost through a decade of cuts. Analysis by the IFS shows that this funding only restores 2022-23 per pupil spend to 2010 levels [1], as the chart below shows.

Schools and local authorities are also uncertain about the future of multi-academy trusts. In 2022, the Government outlined proposals for all schools to be in Multi-academy trusts (Mats) by 2030 in their schools white paper, and unveiled plans to allow councils to establish new Mats. Since the publication of the white paper, the Schools Bill, which would provide legal basis to these plans, has been dropped, creating uncertainty over whether the Government still intends to pursue its plans for Mats.

One of the largest financial pressures for local authorities in Education is funding placements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

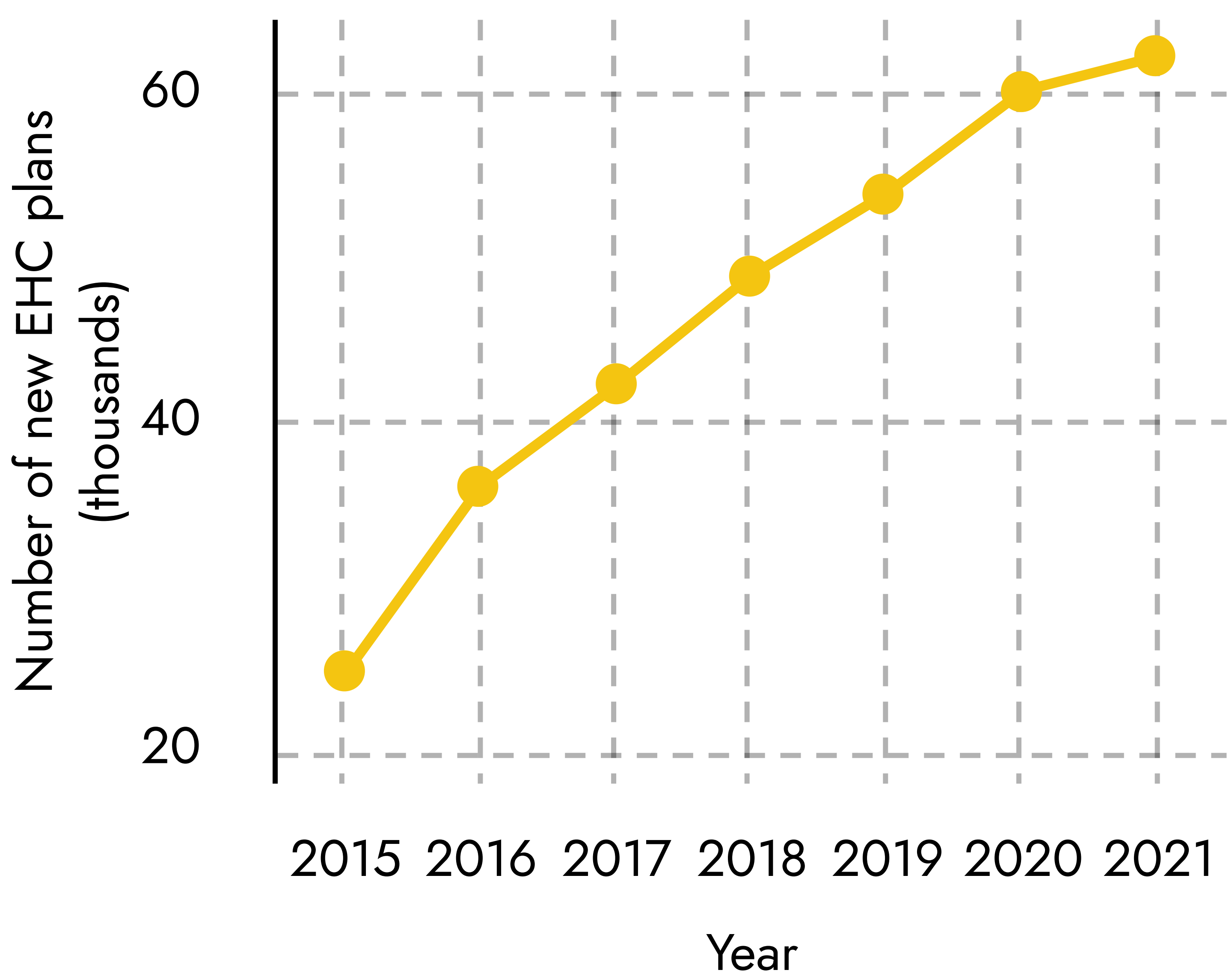
In the 2021-22 academic year, 142,028 children and young people were being educated in specialist schools and colleges in England, an increase of almost a third from 5 years ago. Funding for children with SEND has stagnated, with councils frequently overspending their allocated budget in this area, requiring them to 'top-up' this budget from other areas, and running deficits on reserves, which is unsustainable.

Total school spending per pupil (2022-23 prices)[1]



It is predicted this funding gap currently stands at £1.9 bn, growing to £3.6 bn in 2025 if the Government does not intervene with further spending. This funding gap has prevented local authorities from investing as much on early support that helps many children with SEND to integrate into mainstream education. 52% of specialist schools in England are oversubscribed and councils have found it difficult to create new provision [2]. In March 2023, the Government published its improvement plan for SEND and Alternative Provision (AP), however this plan falls short in addressing the fundamental pressure on local authorities – the cost and demand of SEND provision.

Number of new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans [3]



National funding rates for Further Education colleges did not change between 2013 and 2019, were increased by 4.7% in 2020-21 and by 8% in 2022-23 (to pay for extra teaching hours), the result has been a real-terms cut in funding for Further Education Colleges [4].

Further Education colleges play an important role in equipping populations with the skills the Government have recognised as important to the levelling up agenda.

Our Asks

- Introduce a National Funding Formula that properly recognises deprivation and does not give undue weight to rurality and a real-terms increase in per pupil spend against 2010 levels.
- Provide local authorities with a clear plan going forward for multi-academy trusts.
- Provide local authorities with adequate funding and long-term certainty over funding to support children with SEND in education.
- Support Further Education colleges to deliver the skills the country needs by giving them a real-terms funding increase, including them in the VAT refund scheme and supporting them with energy bills.

Net Zero and Climate Change

Funding support for local authorities to meet their Net Zero goals.

Background

Many local authorities have declared climate emergencies and developed plans to become net zero by a set date, often before the Government's target of 2050. Some councils have made great strides with innovative policy and practice to advance their net zero goals yet funding these projects remains an issue.

Councils have a significant carbon budget and therefore helping them meet their net zero goals will help the Government meet its goal.

To assist the Government's plan to be net zero by 2050, the Government have set a target to lift the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for as many residential properties as possible by 2035, and introduced new rules for rented properties which requires them to have a minimum EPC rating of C from 1st April 2025 for new tenancies and 1st April 2028 for existing tenancies. This will require additional investment as research suggests the average cost to upgrade a house from an EPC D or below to at least a C is £9260 [1].

Local authorities will be key to helping the Government achieve these targets, both in the enforcement of renting rules and assisting in the uplift of residential properties. There are currently 12.6 million properties in England have an EPC of D or below, with higher concentrations of these properties located in typically more deprived areas [2].

Percentage of housing with EPC D or below [3]

Therefore, providing local authorities with the necessary support will advance progress towards the target and assist local authorities in pulling people out of fuel poverty, due to the higher costs of energy in properties with a lower EPC rating.

£2,680

The estimated cost of a household energy bill in Blackpool, the 1st most deprived local authority area in England [4]

£2,432

The estimated cost of a household energy bill in York, the 141st most deprived local authority area in England [4]

Air pollution is a further challenge facing urban local authorities. The concentration of air pollutants are greater in cities and large towns, and in some instances exceed limits set by the World Health Organisation. Tackling air pollution is important for local authorities to meet their Net Zero and climate change goals and to prevent premature deaths caused by air pollution [5]. The Government's Air Quality Grant Scheme has awarded almost £92 million in funding to local authority projects since 1997 [6], however for urban local authorities to tackle the challenge of air pollution in cities and large towns significant investment is required.

Our Asks

- Create a dedicated Net Zero goal funding pot to help councils fund net zero projects.
- Provide block funding to Combined Authorities and other devolved bodies to avoid expensive and time-consuming bidding processes.
- Commit adequate funding to uplift all housing to EPC C by 2035, and 2025/2028 for private rented accommodation, including committing £10 billion to uplift the most deprived households to a minimum of EPC C, furthering net zero goals and alleviating fuel poverty.
- Increase funding provided through the Air Quality Grant Scheme to assist local authorities in tackling air pollution.

Welfare provision

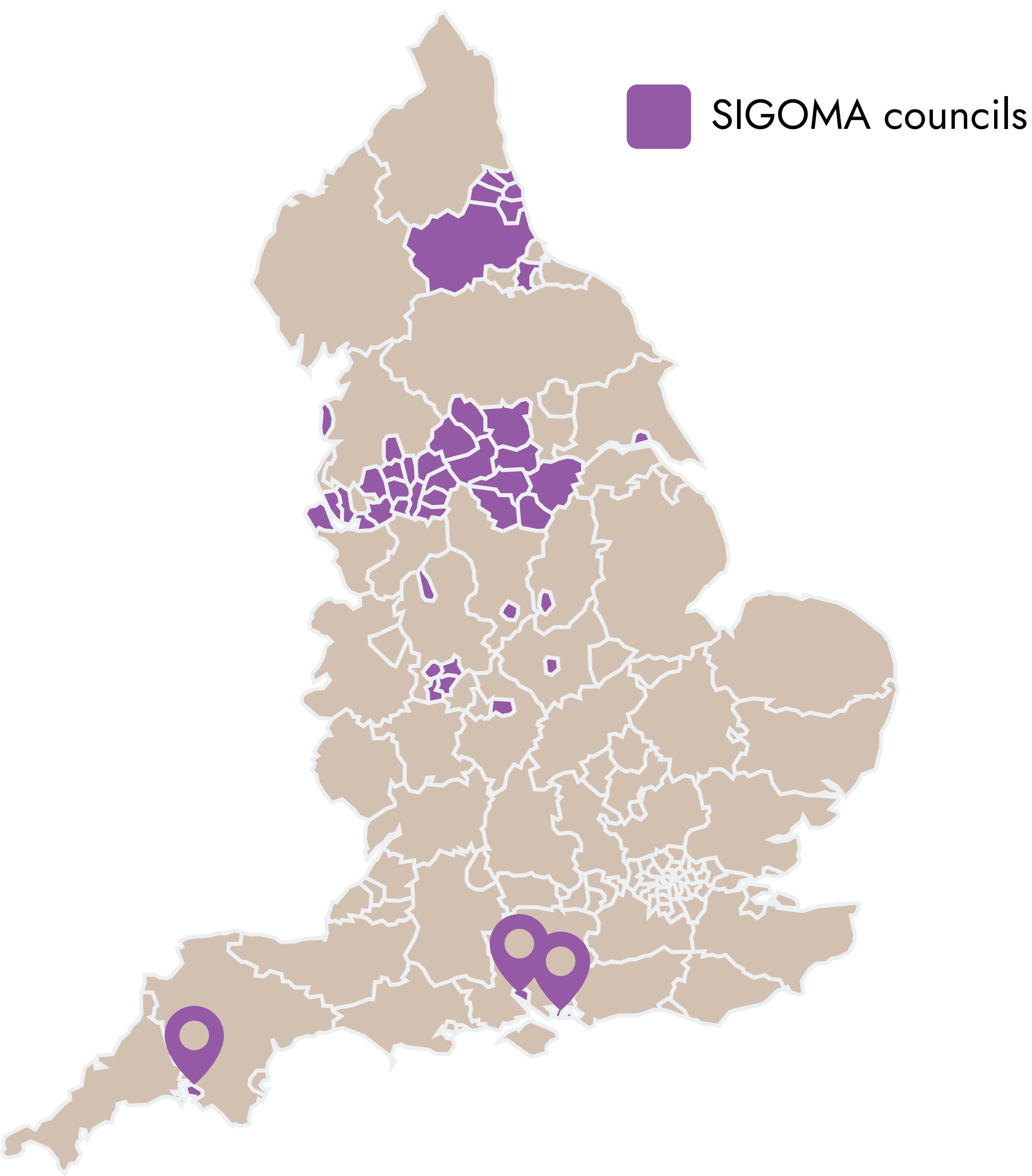
Funding support for local authorities to support the most vulnerable within their area.

Background

Local authorities are seeing greater numbers of their residents require assistance due to the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. This is particularly acute for local authorities which serve a more deprived area.

The Government introduced the Household Support Fund for local authorities to use to support those most in need. There are examples across the country of how that has been applied by our councils.

For example, Barnsley Council have allocated some of their fund to community organisations to help low-income households not eligible for any other support. And in Knowsley, the Household Support Fund has been used to provide vouchers to households who receive Free School Meals, support Knowsley Foodbank and provide extra support to residents of pension age. These are just a small handful of the ways local authorities have used the fund.



89%

of SIGOMA councils

are more deprived in Employment and Income than the English average [1].

The **SIGOMA average score** of Income and Employment deprivation is

31%

higher than the English average [1].

Whilst welcome, the fund comes with no guarantee of continuity and, again, has been announced virtually on the eve of the new financial year leaving councils uncertain as to what they can offer to hard pressed residents.

We have illustrated how Government are forcing councils to raise more from council tax as direct grant is cut. Another aspect of this is that many deprived residents are being charged council tax for the first time as grant funding for council tax support diminishes.

Our Asks

- Make the Household Support Fund permanent to enable local authorities to continue supporting those in the greatest need and shift towards long-term preventative services which build financial capacity and resilience.

- Ensure the funding available through the Household Support Fund is stable to enable local authorities to provide those long-term preventative services.

- Increase the flexibility of council tax reliefs and support a 100% council tax rebate for the poorest households.

Endnotes

Local Government Finance

[1] Figures in Local Government Finance prepared by SIGOMA using Core Spending Power data, Settlement data and NNDR data. Further details available upon request.
Average council change in funding by deprivation quintile calculated by comparing total change in funding for the quintile to the 2023-24 total CSP for the quintile, individual councils may vary considerably around that average.

Levelling Up

[1] Reduction in real-terms spending power. Prepared by SIGOMA using Core Spending Power Data and GDP deflators. Further details available upon request.

[2] Average Levelling Up Funding won per SIGOMA council. Prepared by SIGOMA using Levelling Up Fund Round 1 and Round 2 allocations. Some of our councils are yet to receive Levelling Up Funding. Figures available here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-first-round-successful-bidders and www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-successful-bidders. Further details available upon request.

[3] Estimated cost per bid for councils. Localis analysis funded by the Local Government Association Figure available here: https://www.localis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/loc_competitivebidding.pdf.

[4] Levelling Up Fund value per household for successful authorities plotted against IMD (2019) Rank of Average Score. Funding awarded to Districts has been combined with County allocations, and Combined Authority allocations proportionally spread to member Upper Tier Authorities to allow for comparison at Upper Tier Authority Level. Outliers, Rutland (150, 1292) and Isles of Scilly (139, 42198), have been removed from the graph. Further details available upon request.

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[3] Regional impact of a 4.99% Council Tax increase. Prepared by SIGOMA using 2022-23 Council Tax base figures provided by DLUHC. Figures available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/core-spending-power-provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2022-to-2023.

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SIGOMA

The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities

The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) is a special interest group within the LGA which represents metropolitan and unitary authorities outside London, from the Southern Ports, the East Midlands, West Midlands, North West, North East and Yorkshire & Humberside. The 47 SIGOMA councils are home to 13.8 million people, 24.9% of the English population.

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