

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Welsh Local Government Association



CLILC • WLGA

APSE Seminar –

A perspective of Local Government across Wales

Local Government House

4 July 2019

Chris Llewelyn (Chief Executive, WLGA)



@welshLGA

@WelshLGA

www.wlga.wales

Challenges facing Local Government in Wales



CLILC • WLGA



- **Funding**
- **Local Government Reform**
- **Brexit – political uncertainty**
- **Digital**
- ***Councils can***

What happened to the Spending Review?



Public Finance 5 June 2019:

The Spending Review is unlikely to start before parliament's summer recess, chief secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss has told the Lords economic affairs committee.....

"The plan had been to launch the Spending Review...just before the summer recess," Truss told the Lords.

"I would suggest that's unlikely to happen given the current timetable for the [Conservative leadership election](#), and in fact although we will need to set revenue budgets (for 2020-21) we do already have capital budgets for 2020-21," she said.

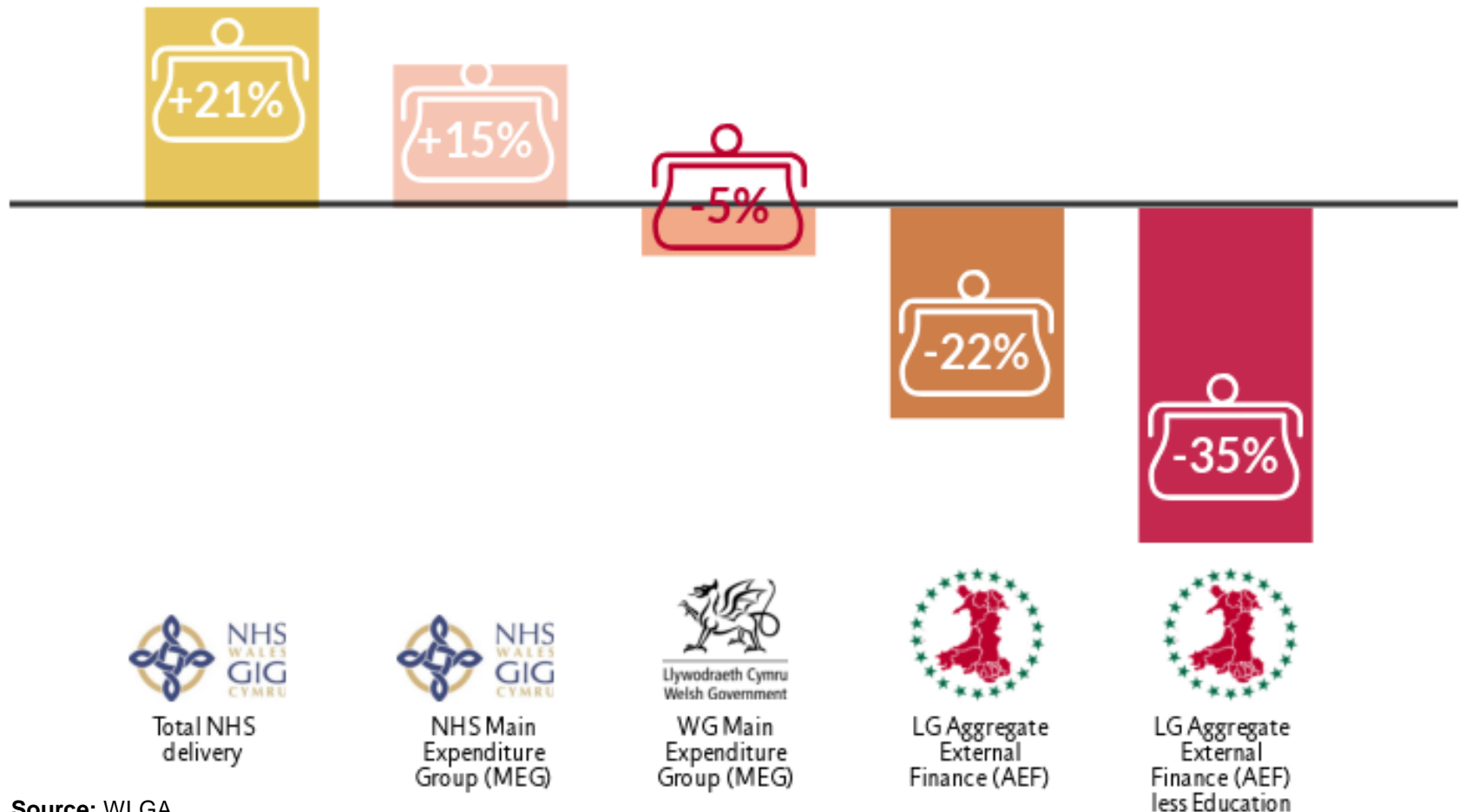
The announcement comes after chancellor Philip Hammond said in April that he thought it would be ["unwise" to set a three-year Spending Review](#) before the outcome of Brexit was clear.

Continued funding reductions



CLILC • WLGA

Change in Funding since 2009-10



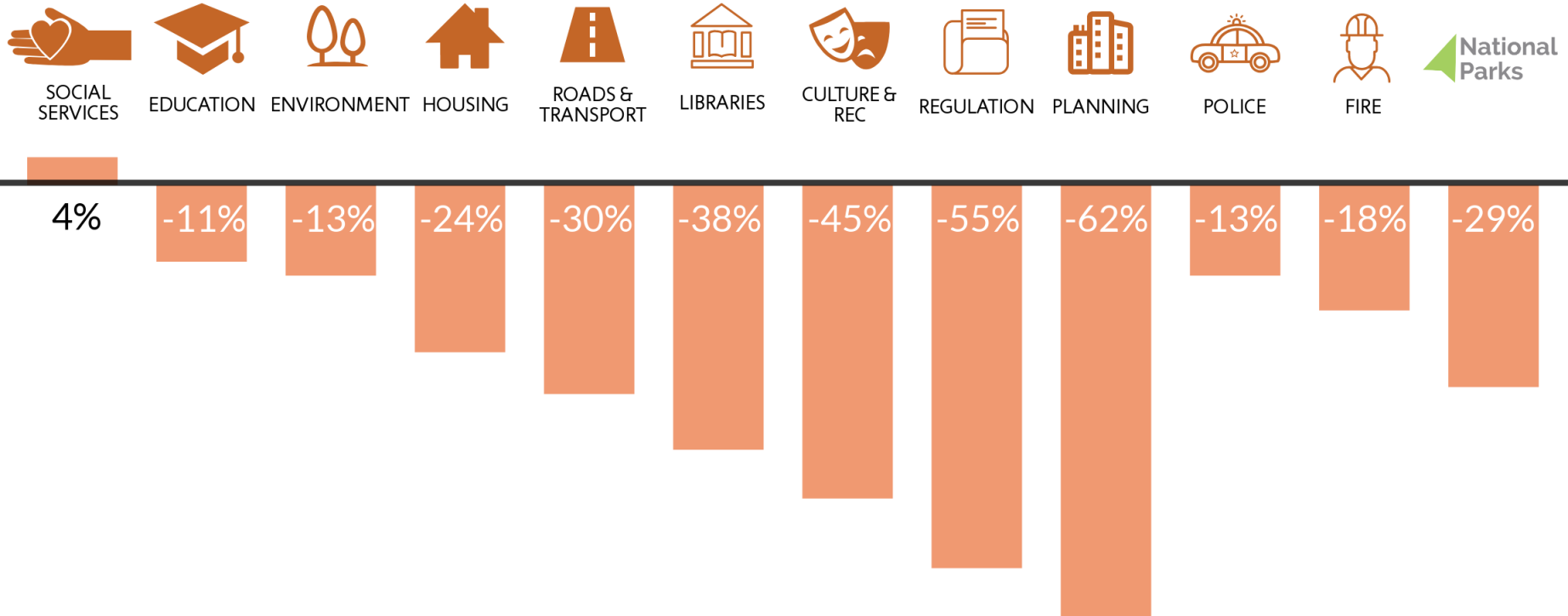
Source: WLGA

Local services bearing the brunt.....



CLILC • WLGA

Service spend change since 2009-10



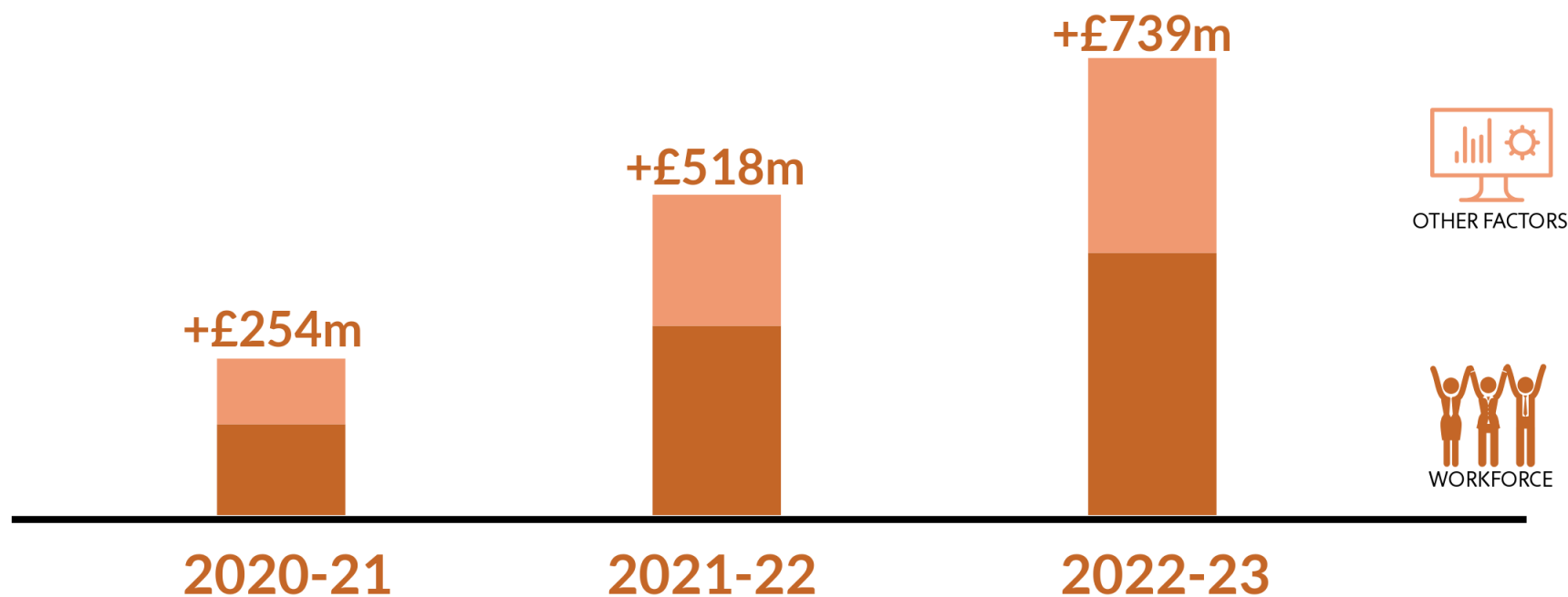
Source: WLGA

LG pressures in the medium term....



CLILC • WLGA

Cumulative pressure



Source: WLGA

Key issues in terms of local government pressures



CLILC • WLGA

Workforce and Commissioning Costs

(For teachers and those on NJC terms and commissioned services)

High Cost/High Need Service Areas (including Childrens' services)

Full Funding for new responsibilities (recent experience with the ALNET Act)

Key dates before Assembly Recess



CLILC • WLGA

- 5 June Evidence on NAFW Finance Committee – Capital Funding
- 5 June NAFW Business Rates Panel
- 7 June Deadline for WLGA Survey
- 12 June Partnership Council
- 14 June WLGA Council AGM
- 18 June Seminar with NAFW Cross Party Group on North Wales
- 24 June Rural Forum
- 25 June Paying for Social Care Programme Board
- 27 June Stakeholder event with Finance Committee in Aberystwyth
- 2 July Finance Cabinet Members 3 July Finance Sub Group – Key meeting with Ministers
- 4 July Education Cabinet Members
- 10 July Distribution Sub Group – interim reporting
- 17 July AMs LGF Event with Leaders & Unions
- 19 July WLGA Executive & Publication of WCPP Report

Reform Working Group



CLILC • WLGA

- Set up following Green Paper in Summer 2018
- Chaired by Derek Vaughan
- Members included the Minister for Local Government (Alun Davies AM and then Julie James AM), WLGA leadership (cross-party) with representatives from unions, business and third sector
- The group concluded its work in May 2019.

Reform Working Group



CLILC • WLGA

- There is no report (nor was there due to be one), but a series of recommendations were made.
- WLGA Members agreed these recommendations at Executive Board (leaders) on 24th May and ratified by WLGA Council on 14th June 2019.
- Bilateral reform discussions will continue through a new Sub-Committee of the Partnership Council (inc. Minister and WLGA members: Cllr Debbie Wilcox (Newp), Rob Stewart (Swan), Andrew Morgan (RCT), Huw Thomas (Card), Hugh Evans (Den), Ellen ap Gwynn (Cere), Mair Stephens (Carms), Sam Rowlands (Conwy))

Reform Working Group -Progress



CLILC • WLGA

- Renewed commitment to partnership governance, dialogue and engagement
- Commitment to revised approach to early dialogue and engagement around finances, including a new framework to outline mechanisms and expectations
- Agreed 'Underpinning Principles of Collaboration'
- Collaboration Compendium
- Agreed draft Prospectus for Voluntary Mergers
- Agreed to Joint Review of Strategic Partnerships
- Commitment to re-establish sector-led improvement support within WLGA
- Statutory Joint Committees

Brexit – No deal, no hope, no clue



CLILC • WLGA



Digitalisation - the next stage in service evolution



CLIC - WLGA



Councils Can



CLILC • WLGA

- Councils are leaders of place that make a big difference to people's lives
- Build the homes the country needs
- Improve lives and save money through prevention
- Deliver brighter futures for all children
- Improve jobs and growth
- Create places where people want to live
- Support adults of all ages to live the life they want to lead
- Build cohesive communities
- Improve lives and save money through prevention

@WelshLGA
www.wlga.wales

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Welsh Local Government Association



CLILC • WLGA

Thank you for listening

Chris Llewelyn

WLGA Conference, Cardiff 27th November



@welshLGA

chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk

02920 468610

@WelshLGA

www.wlga.wales