



The Funding Landscape for Parks and Green Spaces

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Current Funding Picture

What funding opportunities are there?

What happens next?

The Current Funding Picture

In 2019 it's a very mixed picture across local government and we are at a pivotal moment in the future of our nations green spaces.

What does the mixed picture look like?

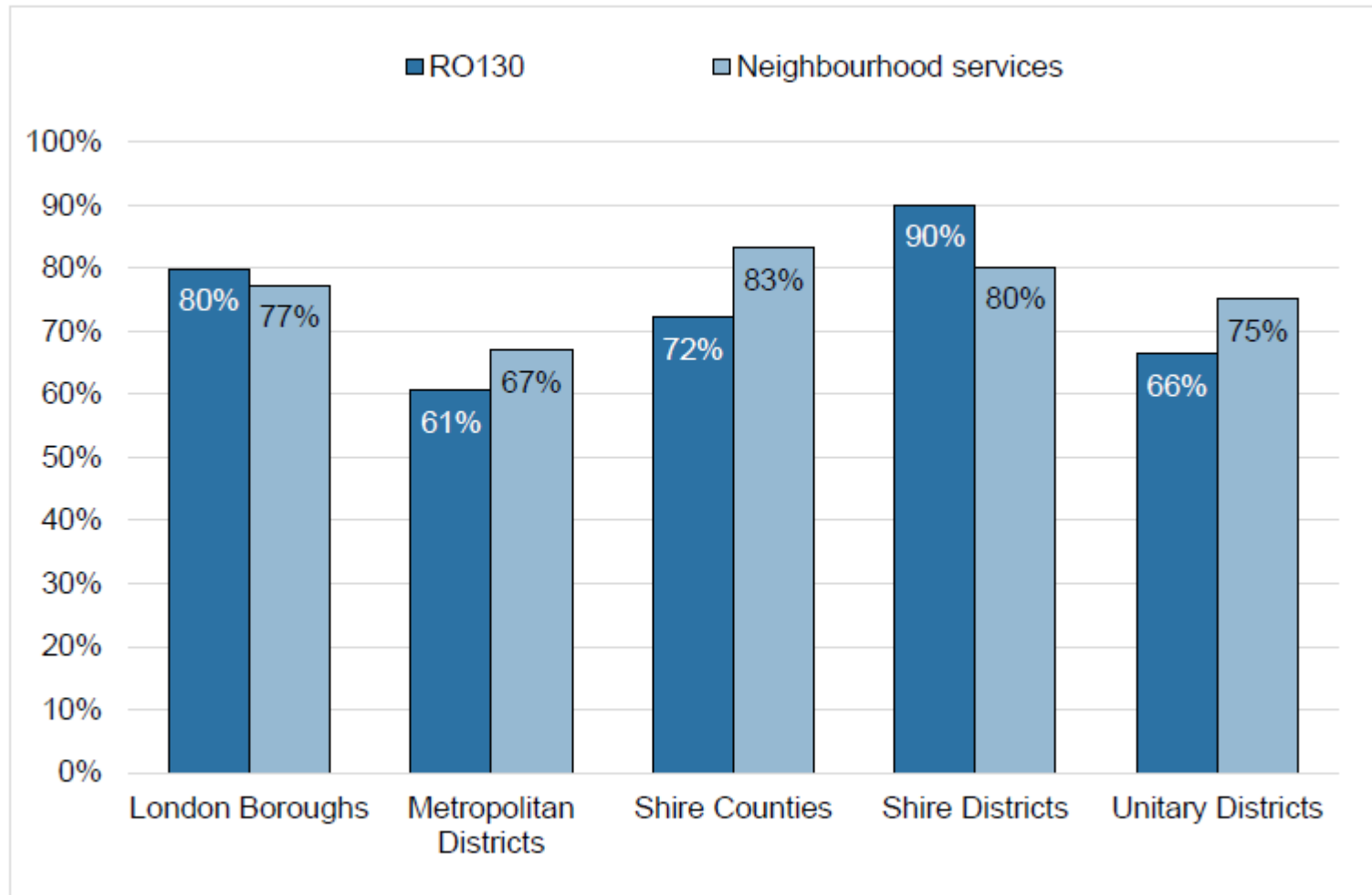
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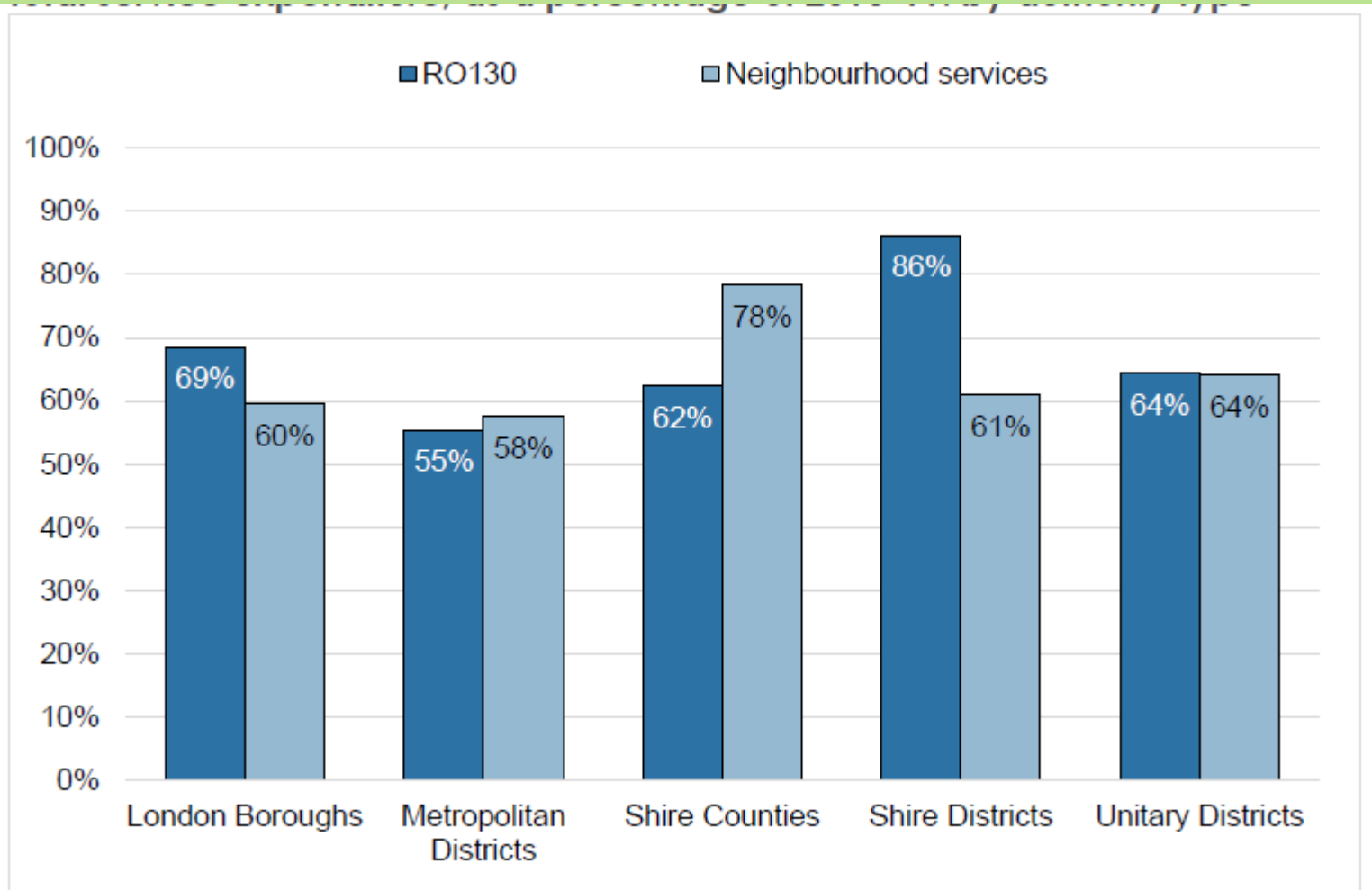


Volume of resources by authority type on average down by 26% since 2010



Source Local Authority Revenue outturn figures 2010-2017

Real net spending by authority type on average down by 32% since 2010



Source Local Authority Revenue outturn figures 2010-2017

The “average” hides bigger cuts in some authorities.

Some authorities budgets have remained stable

Town or Parish Councils are relatively unaffected

The direction is still downwards

Austerity is not over

Total spending on parks and open spaces in England for 2014/15 was 972 million pounds

Total spending on parks and green spaces in England for 2016/17 was 630 million pounds

A loss of 342 million pounds

7% of the cost of leisure centres in the UK



4 general elections or referendums



3 metres of a nuclear submarine



Less than 2 miles of HS2 (phase 1)



What else are we seeing?

Increased public awareness and their willingness to make their voices heard.



Increased media interest.....and influence



The Mail
 ON SUNDAY
 SUNDAY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 £1.60

FREE INSIDE
 My easiest ever
5:2 DIET
 by Dr Michael Mosley

16-PAGE GLOSSY PULLOUT
 INSIDE YOU MAGAZINE

They are being sold off, built on, neglected and taken over by thugs. Today we launch a vital campaign:

SAVE OUR PARKS

By Michael Powell

THOUSANDS of parks are falling into disrepair or being sold off by cash-strapped councils. The Mail on Sunday reveals today. Children's play areas are being closed, grass is being left to overgrow, and flowerbeds are being

The Mail CAMPAIGN

removed at hundreds of sites across the country. Other parks are becoming 'no-go zones' plagued by drug users and

anti-social behaviour as staff are withdrawn. In the worst cases, councils are flagging chunks of parkland to housing developers to raise money – despite huge protests and while wasting millions on vanity projects elsewhere. Our investigation found that almost one in three councils had sold off

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HURLEY & SON
 Incredible first joint photo shoot

SEE PAGE 3

FEBRUARY 17 • 2019 The Mail on Sunday

Victory for the MoS as Government pledges £13m to Britain's parks

By Michael Powell

THE Government today pledges a £13million cash injection to help improve Britain's parks. In a victory for The Mail on Sunday's Save Our Parks Campaign, Communities Secretary James Brokenshire has ordered that funds be made available immediately so that local authorities can buy new play equipment, spruce up tired green spaces and start creating 200 smaller 'pocket parks'.

Mr Brokenshire said: 'I want to commend The Mail on Sunday for the importance of parks because they

WHETHER you use a park or not, nearly all of us can recognise their importance. For millions, they are gateways to a place to go for outdoors, a place to go for a jog, to walk the dog or simply to grab a moment away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. I've been following The Mail on Sunday's spirited campaign with keen interest and the passionate debate that it has rightly generated. And I want to assure readers that I share this passion. Parks strengthen our communities and make areas more attractive places in which to live and work. They are communal spaces in which we can be together with friends, but also alone

We must guard our green spaces – and this cash is just the start

By JAMES BROKENSHIRE
 COMMUNITIES SECRETARY

see much-loved green spaces fall into disrepair, playgrounds shut or be judged no-go areas. Quite rightly, spending on our parks is a decision for local leaders, but where they have prioritised protection, they have found the funds to do so. We recognise that councils continue to face tough decisions. Last week, I confirmed their budgets will rise by £1.3 billion this year and we've also given local leaders more control over the money they raise and spend. One of the

Political awareness – who would not want our communities to have access to safe, inclusive, quality green spaces that provide opportunities to live a healthy lifestyle.

 **Knowsley Council** 
@KnowsleyCouncil 

Plans to sell 17 park sites in #Knowsley are to be dropped as a result of feedback from the local community, the new leader of Knowsley Council, Cllr Graham Morgan, has confirmed today. Read more at ow.ly/eaJs30krFvV

4:23 PM - Jun 11, 2018

 **"We won't sell Knowsley's parks", say...**
Cllr Graham Morgan, Leader of Knowsley Council, has confirmed he intends to drop proposals to sell 10% of the borough's parks. knowsleynews.co.uk

 65  42 people are talking about this 

I'm pleased to announce further funding of more than £13million for parks and playgrounds. Parks are an invaluable public asset. The new funding will make a big difference, but is only the start of what I hope will be a new conversation – one that focuses on how parks can add even more value to our towns, cities and communities.

What funding opportunities are there?



Lets start with the basics, caveats and warnings....

There is no silver bullet

Every authority is different

What works for one may not work for another

Public and political opposition

Capital and revenue funding are very different

Inequality and barriers to use

You still need staff

Local Authorities still have a combined spending power of over 44 billion pounds. Parks & Green spaces account for approx. 1% of this spend.

Should we be asking ourselves a different question?

How much funding do we need, not how much have we lost?

How can the gaps be filled....not cut?

What can we learn from our international friends?

Who are the main benefactors from increasing peoples use of parks and how could they contribute to there maintenance.

Fees and charges

Foundations and legacies

Grants

Environmental taxes both existing and new

Trusts...or not...

biodiversity net gain /Ecometrics

Natural capital

Sponsorship

Commercialisationor not

Concessions

Events

106 and CIL

Philanthropy / Voluntary giving schemes

Using technology

Doing things differently

Don't get distracted by the fog..... without core funding it all falls apart



What happens next?



Austerity is not over yet



No knight in shining armour



Government are committed to working to safeguard the future of parks and green spaces so that parks might be passed to future generations even more green and well used than they were passed down to us.

Government believe in the underlying principle in the use of public parks by the public for reasonable everyday use is, and should remain free.

Making the case for funding parks....

We need to continue to influence local and national decision makers.

Comprehensive spending review.

Fair Funding review.

Wider local government funding reforms.

We all have a voice...and a vote.

The Future... is still unclear

Change, change and more change....

If we are to tackle the nations health crisis, support the environmental 25 year plan, adapt to climate change and enable our communities to live happy, healthy and sustainable lifestyles we need to fundamentally change our approach to funding local services.

Parks, and the benefits of parks, should be complementary and not in competition with other public services.



Thanks for listening!

Chris Worman MBE

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