Sustainable local government and liveable local areas: can we survive to 2020?

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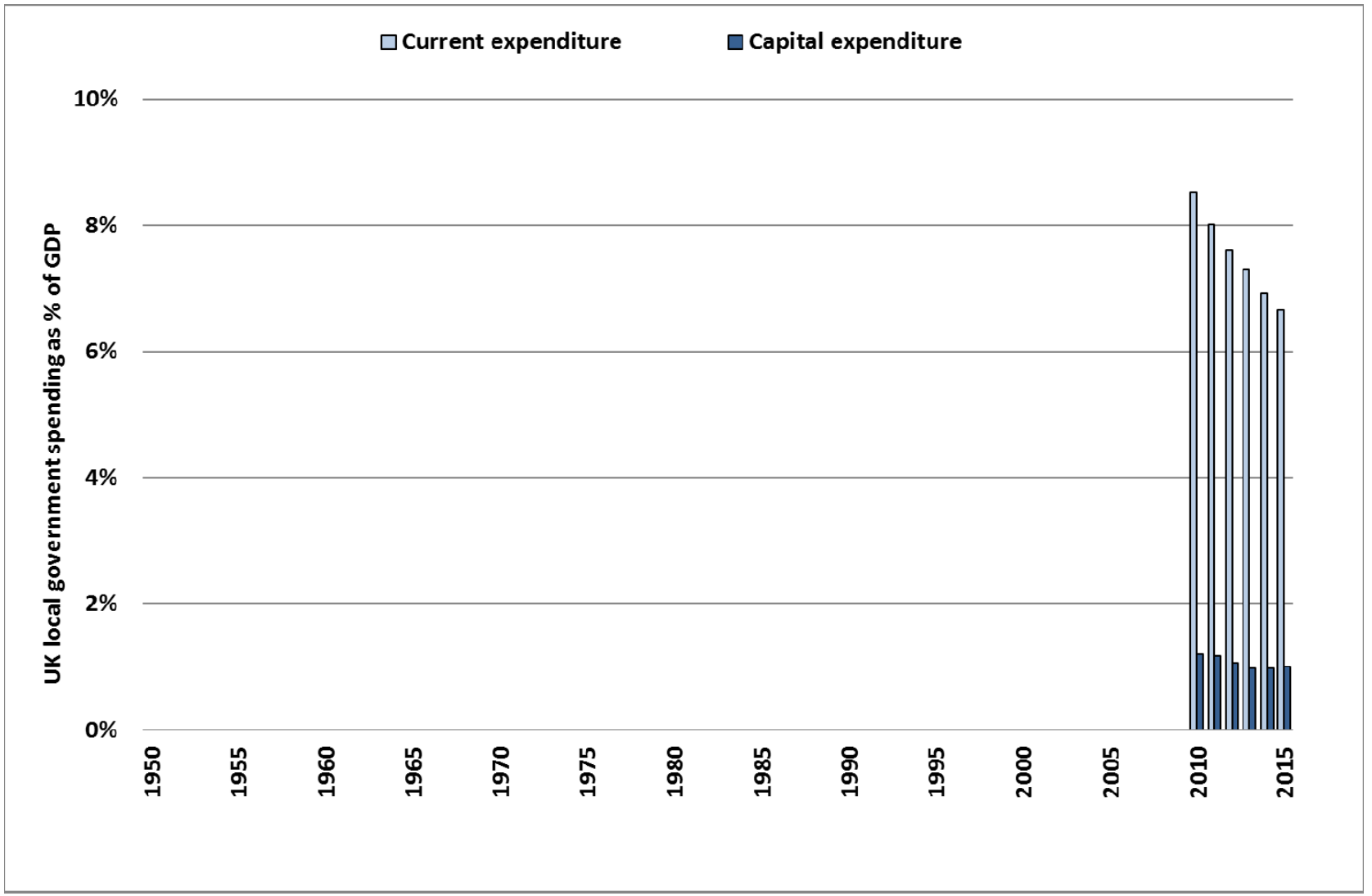
Sustainable local government: liveability to 2020

- The importance of UK local government as measured by economic spending
- The importance of council tax as measured by its share of revenue
- The relentless pressure on local government, from rising demand and no needs-based equalisation
- Conclusions

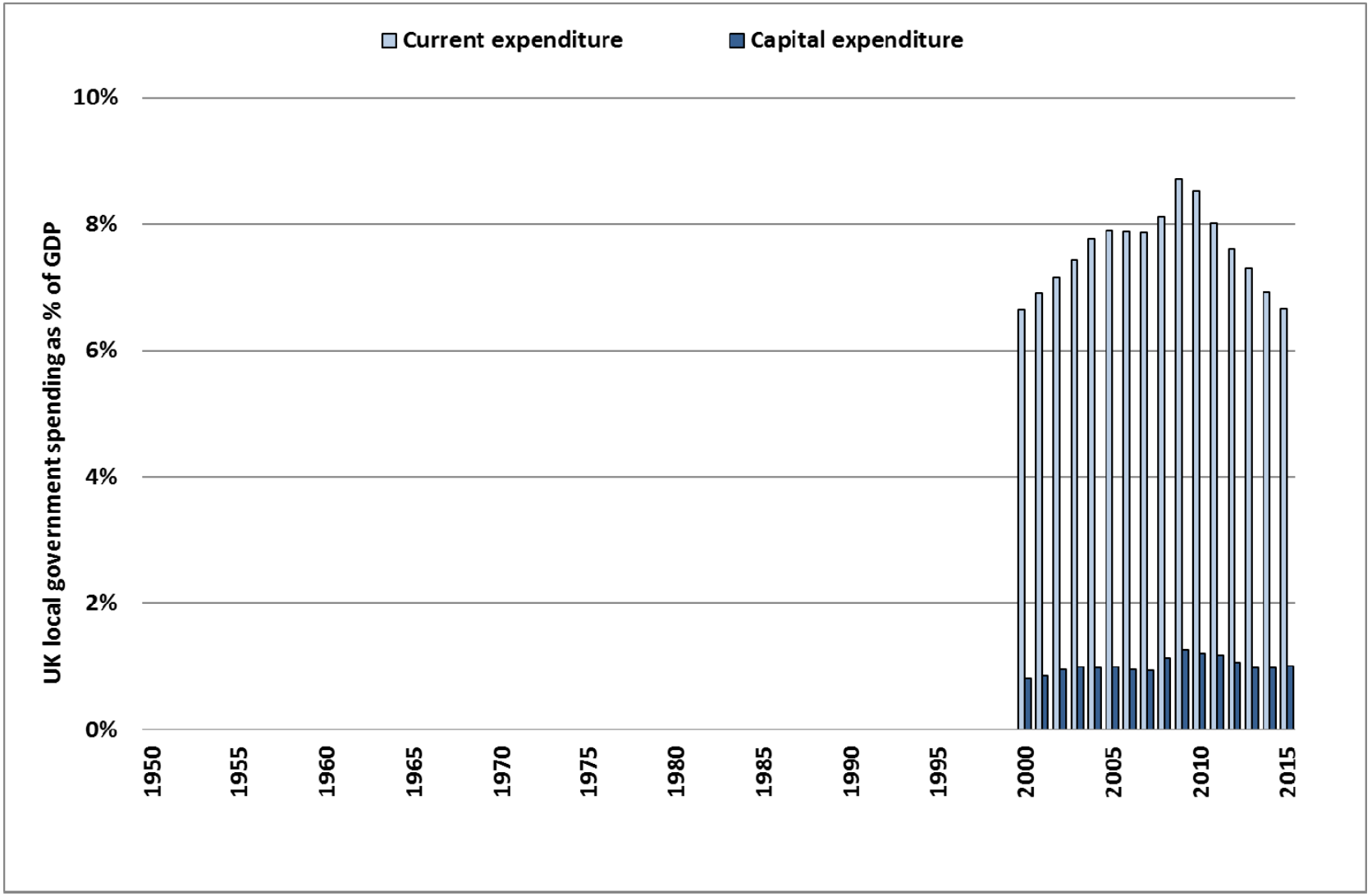
The importance of local government:
UK local government spending as a share of GDP

- Economic statistics from the Offices of National Statistics and Budget Responsibility:
- Show how big a share of total resources are deployed by UK local government (percentage of GDP)
- Confirm how far things will have gone by 2020
- Show a clear outline how local government has changed in the past

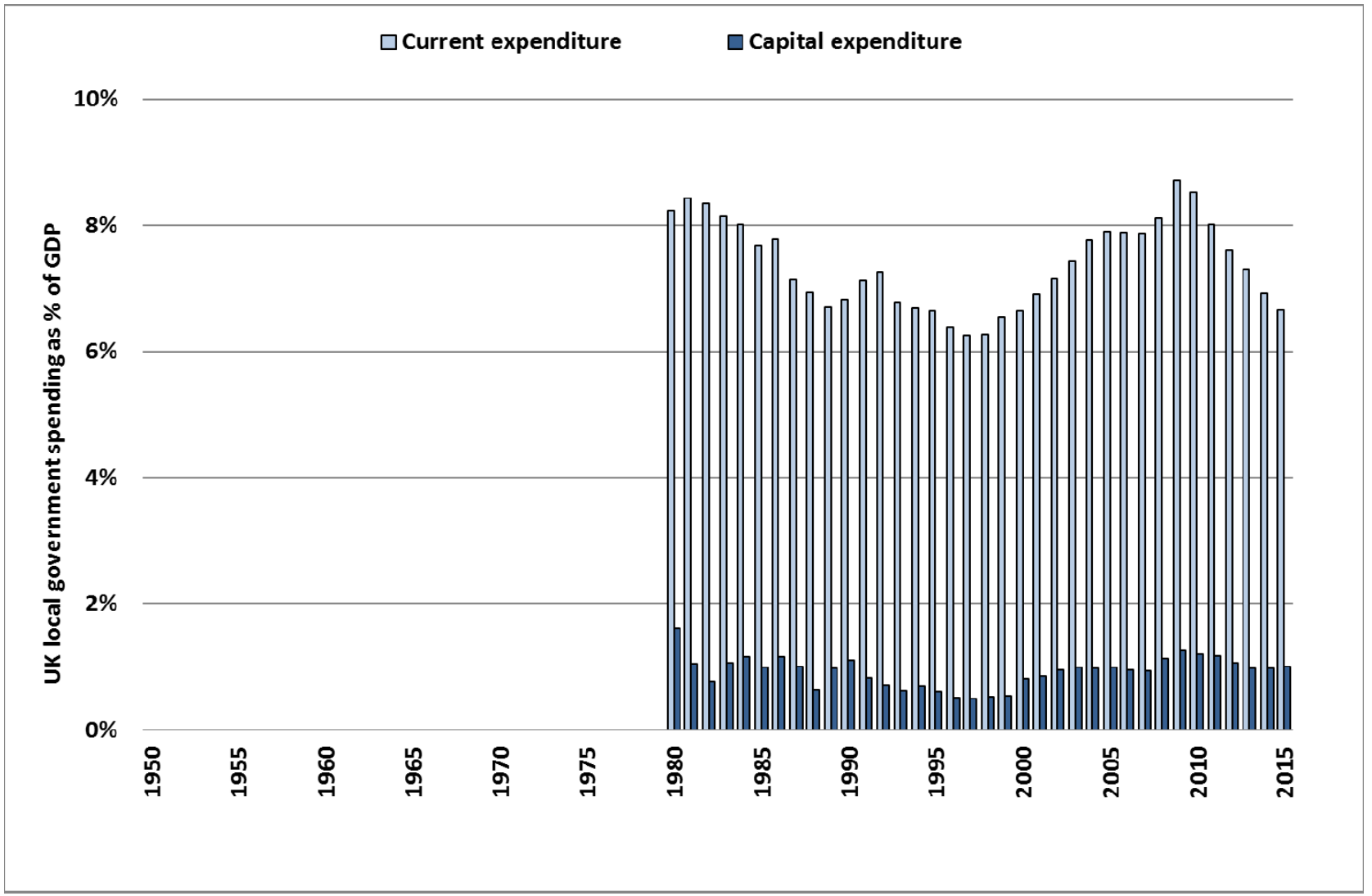
The importance of local government: back to 2010, a steep fall (9.7% of GDP to 7.7% - £38bn/year)



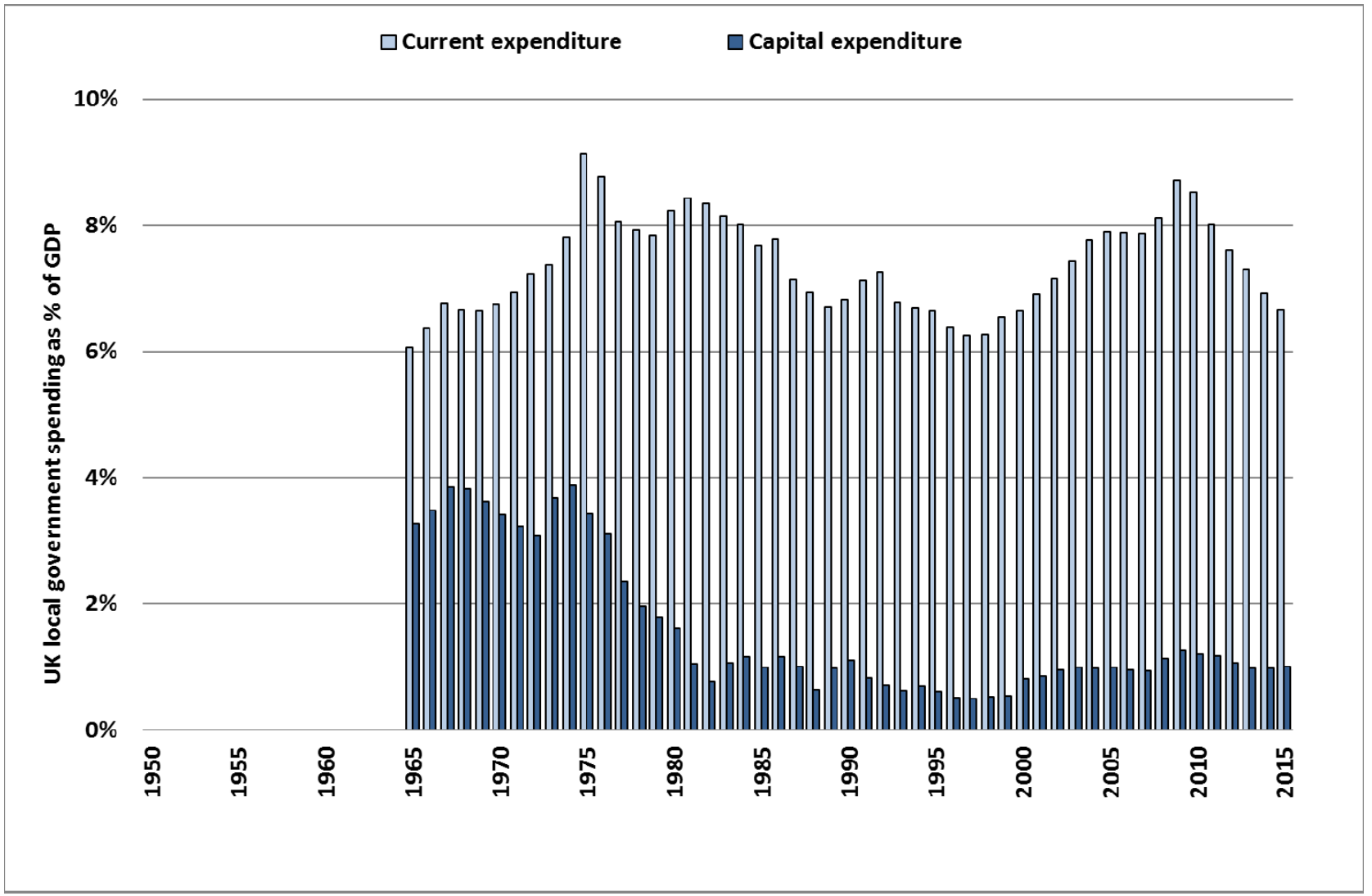
The importance of local government: back to 2000, the recent fall looks like the earlier rise in reverse



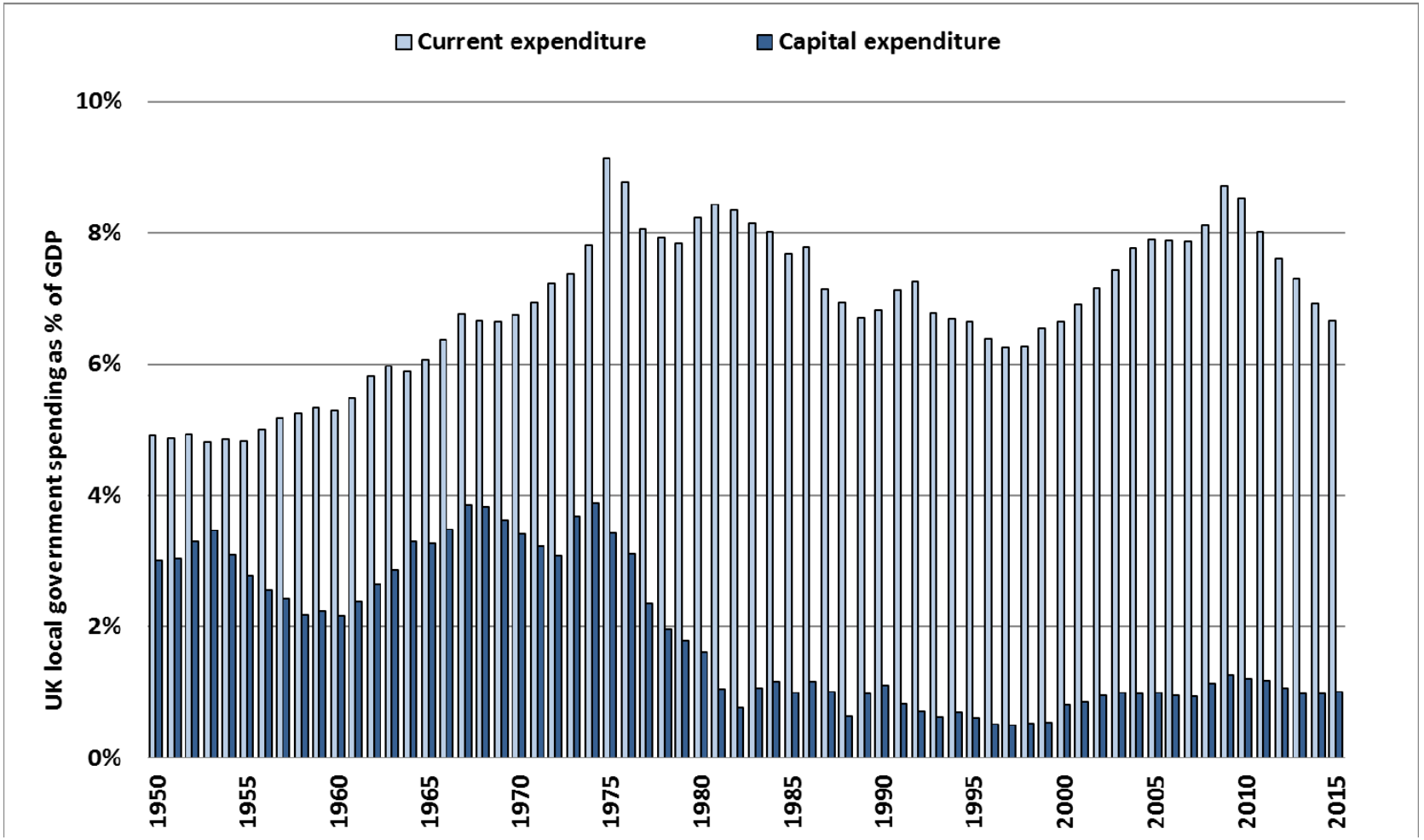
The importance of local government: back to 1980, rise and fall both look precipitous



The importance of local government: back to 1965: capital spending was once far higher

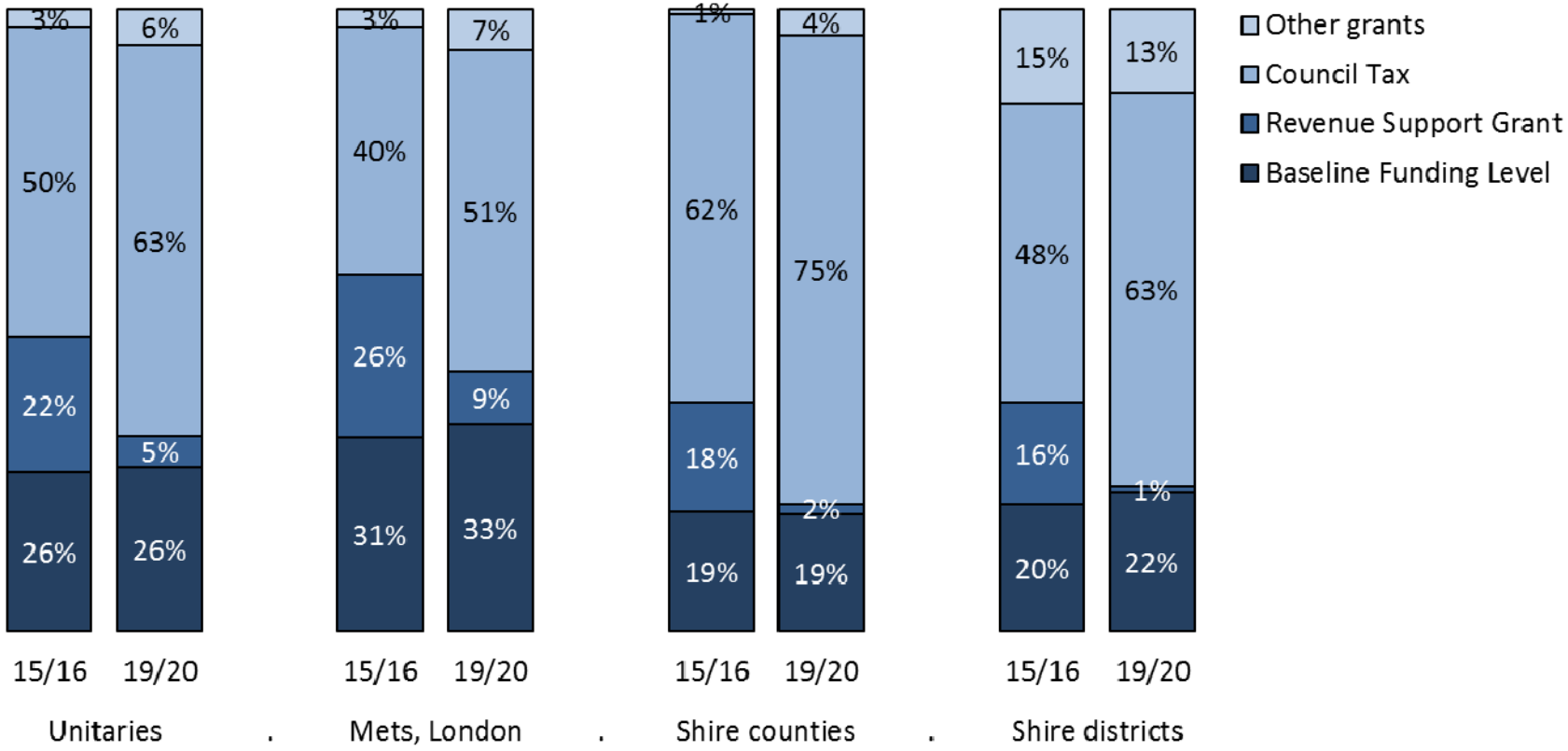


The importance of local government: back to 1950: current spending was once far lower



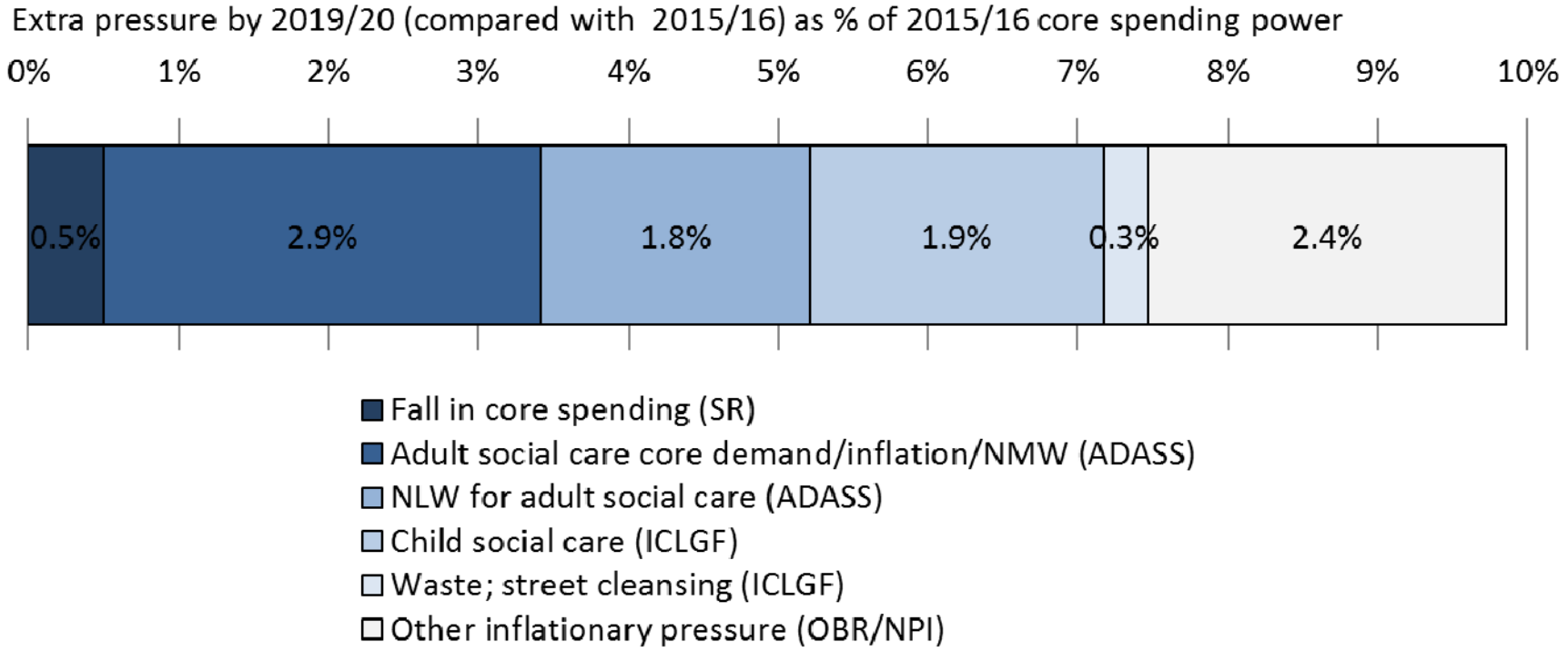
- Local govt + nationalised industry once drove UK investment

The importance of council tax: the days when the tax brought in just 25% of income are long gone



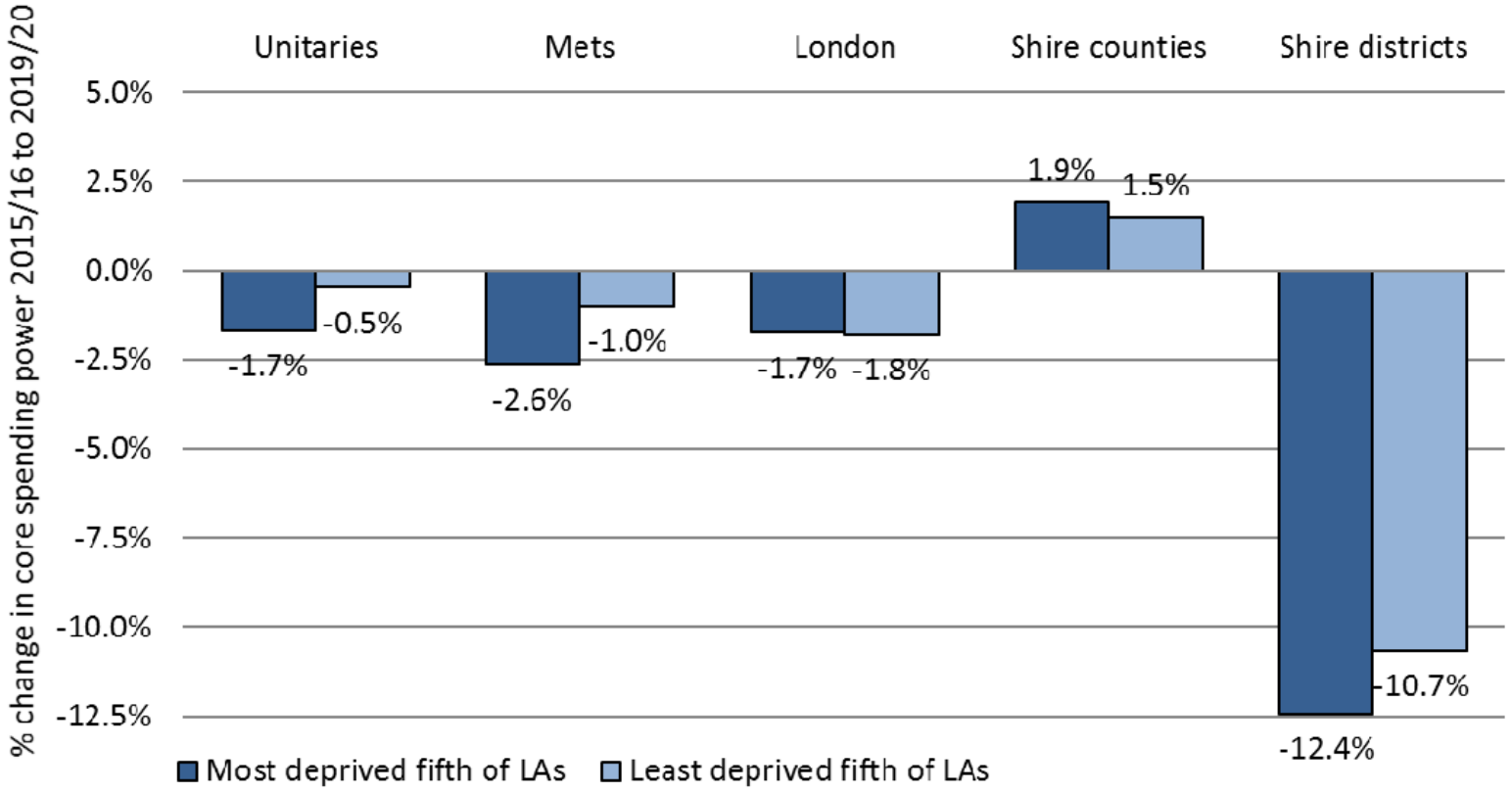
- A fair and effective council tax now matters more than ever to local government

The relentless pressure on local government: from 2015, most of it (in England) is from rising demand



- This near 10% squeeze in total is closer to 20% if adult social care is shielded

The relentless pressure on local government: the most and least deprived areas will be hit alike



- Now a barely perceptible link between measured need per dwelling and business rate per dwelling

Sustainable local government and liveable local areas: surviving to 2020

- The lesson of history: local government's future can be very different from its past – so how to bring this about?
- Localisation without equalisation offers high-need, low potential growth areas a bleak future – this is a new cleavage
- The jaws of doom story's lost its bite: quality of life services have to be explained and defended in their own right