



Redefining neighbourhoods A future beyond austerity?

Peter Kenway
New Policy Institute

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Summary: neighbourhood services

- Universal services – a core function of local govt in public's eyes
- The hardest-hit of all local govt services since 2010/11, spending down by 50% in hardest hit LAs (widely 25%+)
- The hardest hit LAs are most often the most deprived
- Defend as part of general defence of local government which has borne brunt of austerity (far deeper than central governments)

Neighbourhood Services: what and why

Neighbourhood Services	
Includes	Excludes
Highways and Transport; Cultural; Environmental and Regulatory; Planning and Development	Education; Social Care; Public Health; Housing (GRFA); Police and Fire; Central; Other

- A collective term raises the profile - surveys of APSE members and the general public put 'neighbourhood services' at top of list

Spending on Neighbourhood Services

Total Service Expenditure, England (TSE)

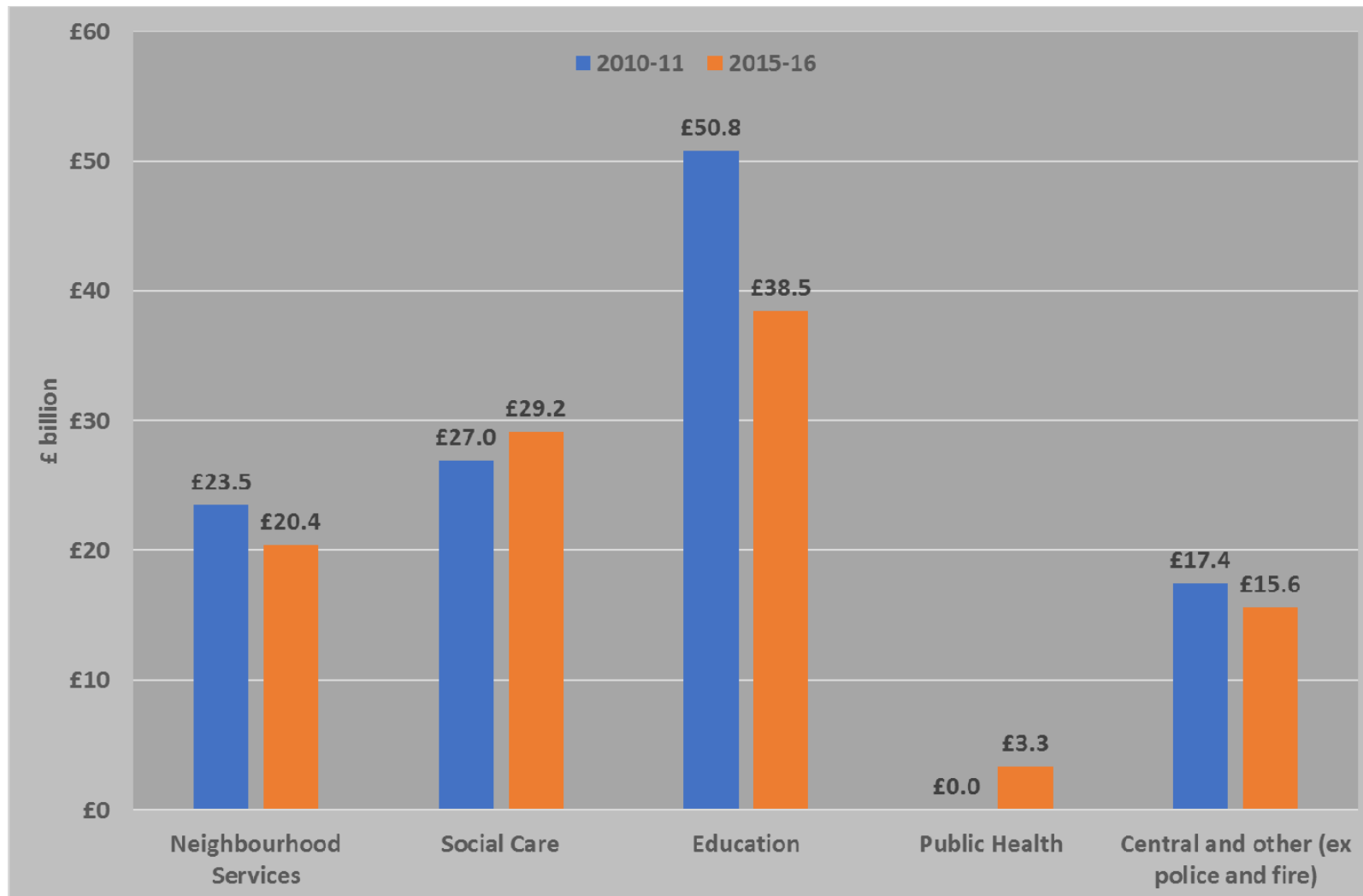
Spending on employees and running expenses
(and so before sales, fees and charges)

Cost inflation in local government

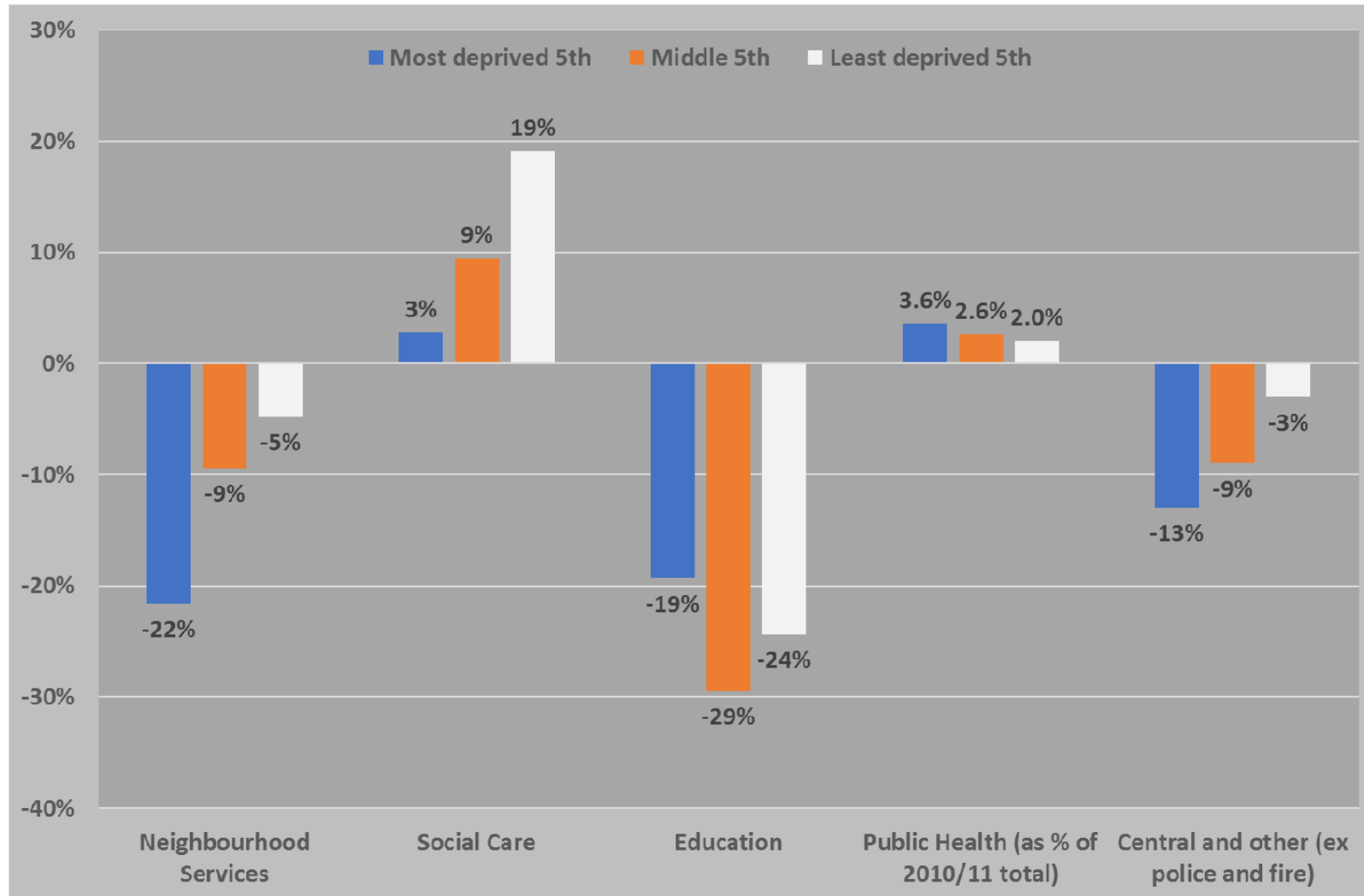
Not much data but best there is says just 1.2% in five years
v. 7.6% for whole economy unit costs and 11% for consumer prices

- Implies at least double austerity for public sector workforce

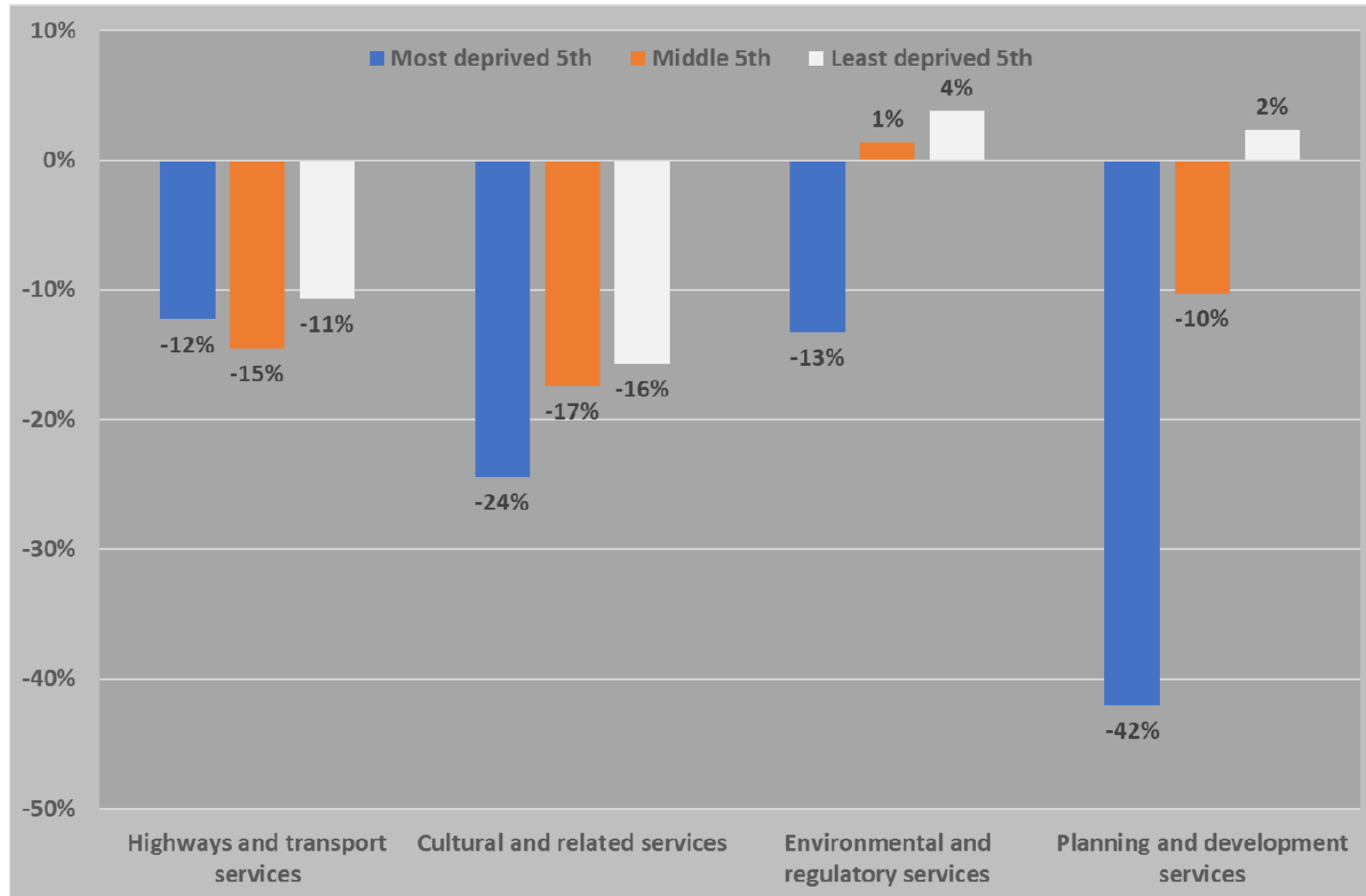
TSE by service group, 2010-11 and 2015-16



TSE 5 year % change: service group & deprivation



TSE 5 year % change: neighbourhood services & deprivation



Neighbourhood Services spending in Wales and Scotland

- Scotland – spending down 7.3% (13% England)
- Wales – spending down 20% (even though total local govt spending up 3%)
- Wales highlights the vulnerability of neighbourhood services within local govt spending as a whole

TSE 5 year changes above 20%: individual neighbourhood services

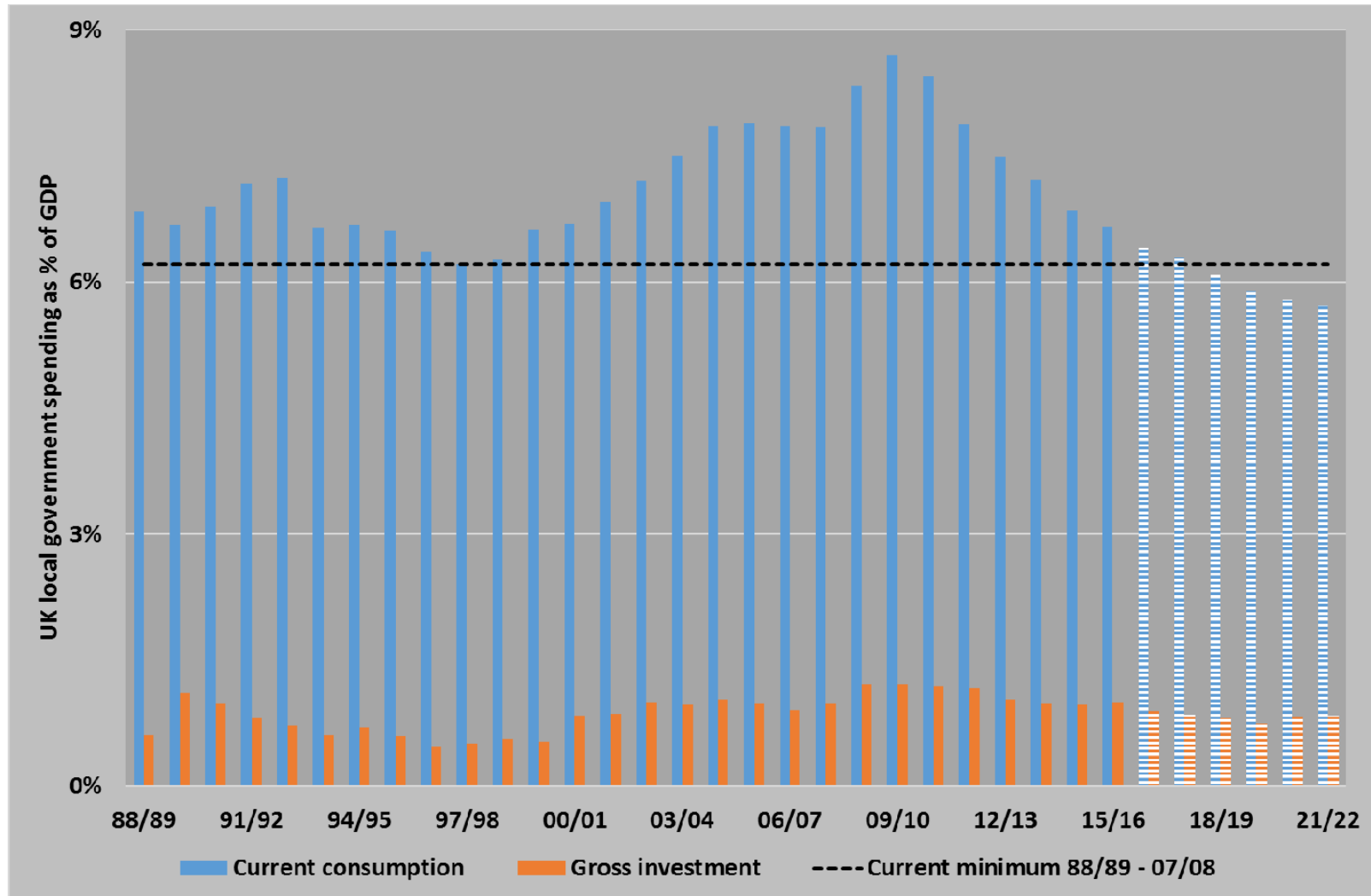
% cut	
50%+	Animal and public health; Rail support
40-49%	Community development; Tourism
30-39%	Congestion, bus lanes, traffic; Crime, safety and CCTV; Economic/business development; Environmental initiatives
20-29%	Sports and rec facilities; Toilets; Trading standards; Libraries; Pests; Road maintenance; Museums, galleries; Community centres; Health and safety

- Some services saw increases e.g. waste disposal/recycling +10-19%

TSE 5 year changes above 20%: individual neighbourhood services (in most deprived 5th)

% cut	
60%+	Animal and public health; Bus services; Community development
50-59%	Tourism; Crime, safety and CCTV
40-49%	Environmental initiatives; Congestion, bus lanes, traffic Ec/business development
30-39%	Conservation; Community centres; Toilets; Trading standards; Road safety; Museums, galleries; Building control; Pests
20-29%	Sport and rec facilities; Food and water safety; Libraries; Theatres; Road maintenance

UK Local Government current consumption and gross investment as % of GDP



Concluding remarks



- The value of neighbourhood services is clear to the public even as their political priority is low and falling
- Research like this is an exercise in chiselling out evidence to shape and support stories about neighbourhood services
- The reliable insights from detailed data lies in the broader patterns they reveal
- A squeeze on local govt (compared with central govt) hitting the most deprived areas hardest ... is anyone arguing for this?