



Local water: The challenge and the prize for the ensuring council as a steward of water

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The road to 2020

A manifesto for the Ensuring Council



What will local government look like in 2020?

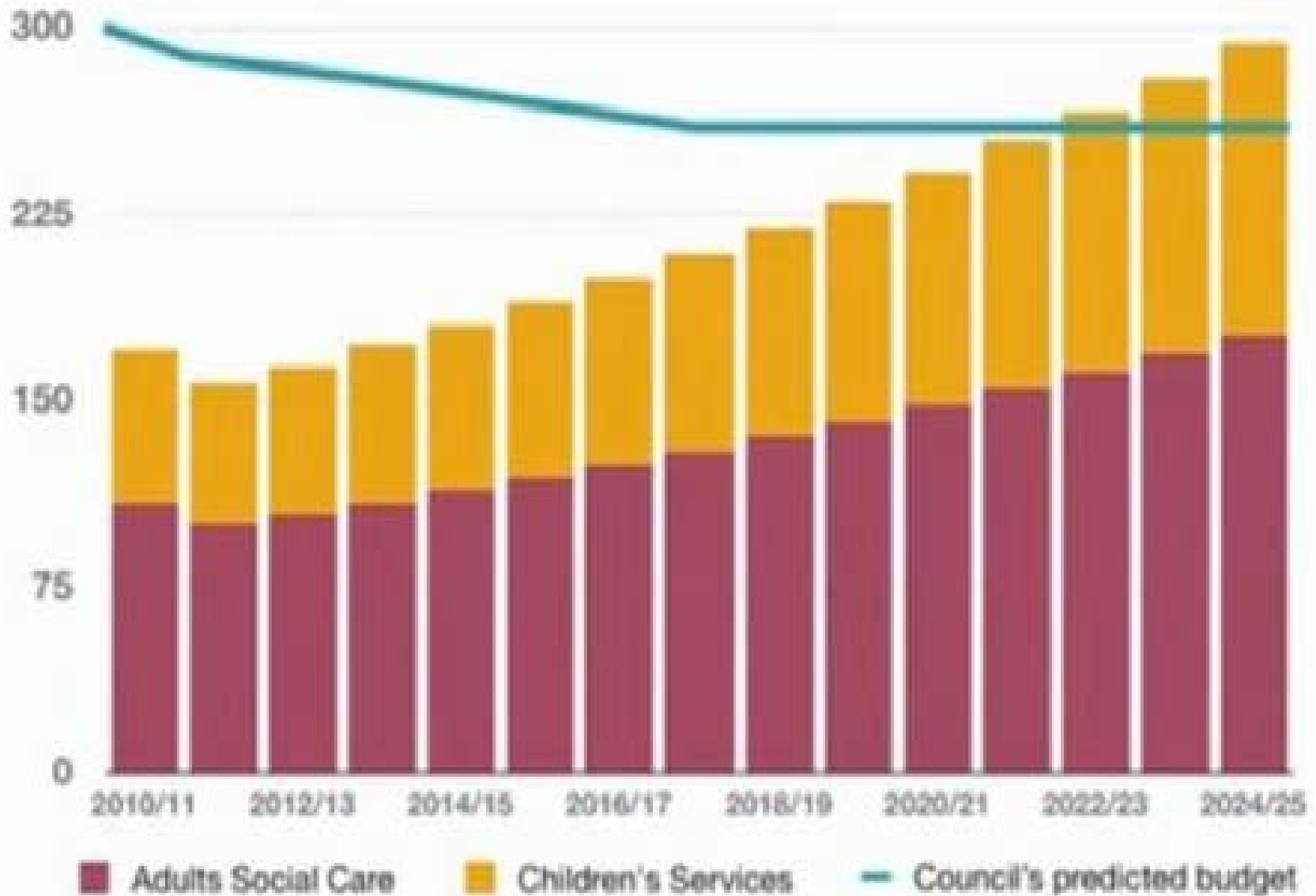


Defining an Ensuring Council

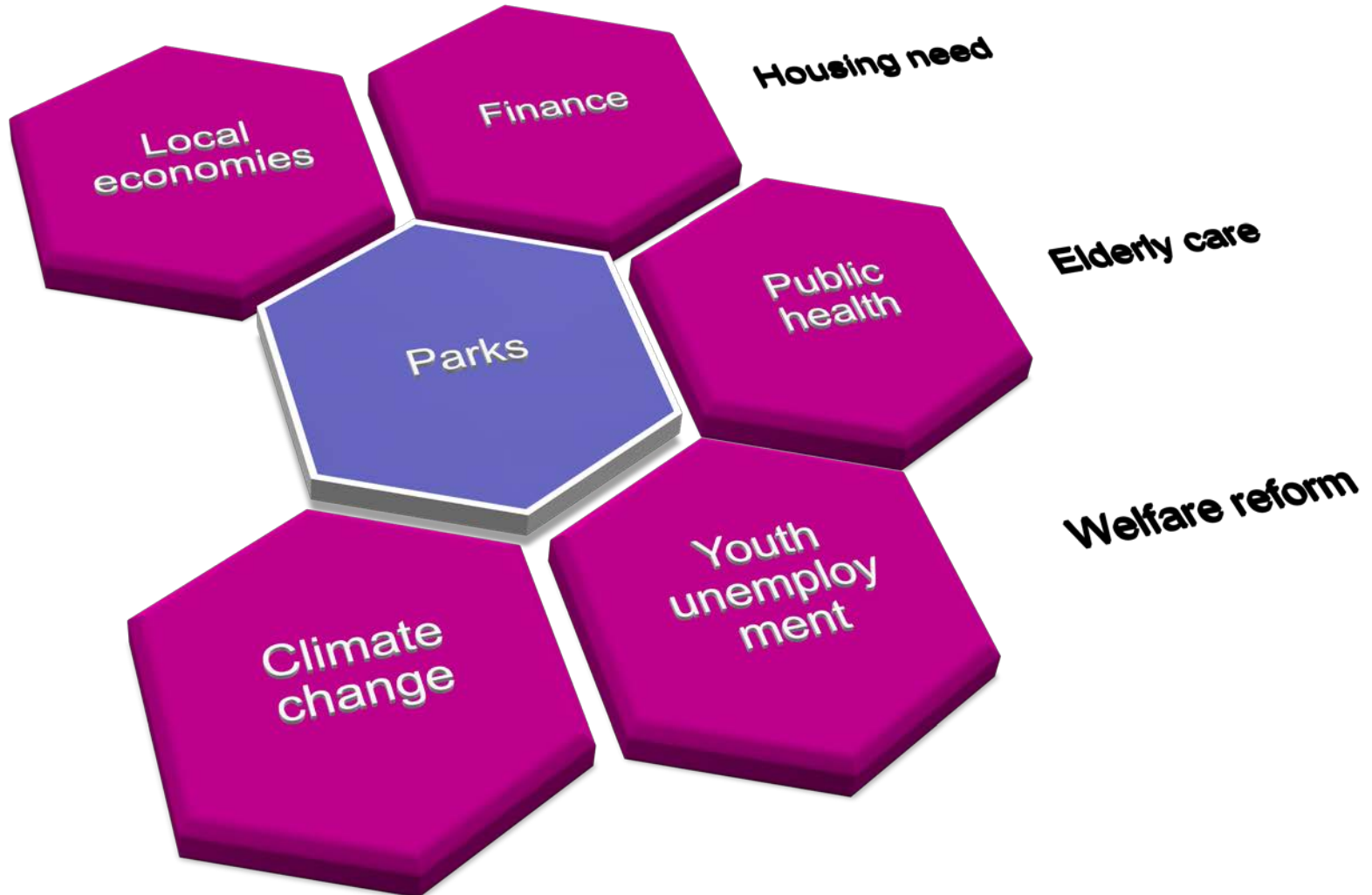


- Exercising stewardship
- Retaining core capacity
- Municipal entrepreneurship
- Collaboration not competition
- Primacy of politics
- Promoting social justice

The 'Graph of Doom'



Public policy challenges



Research responses 2013 / 14



- The Ensuring Council
- The Road to 2020
- Resource efficiency
- The Green Deal
- The value of local authority assets to town centres
- Innovation on the frontline
- Municipal entrepreneurship
- Local water
- Public health
- Youth unemployment
- The future role of elected members
- The future of local government finance
- Change management – pace of change
- Local authorities role in shaping local private sector markets
- The value of school meals and physical activity to public health
- Operational management issues in waste and recycling

The Impact of Flooding



Oxford case study



- Lack of engagement by water companies
- Water contaminated by sewage lapping into gardens.
- Fire Service staff must stop pumping once sewage contamination is identified
- Economic damage
- Two of Oxford's five main arterial roads were impassable.
- Rail line closed -caused disruption of deliveries to the BMW Mini Plant and stopped export of cars.

Flood risk



- Extreme weather
- 3.6 million homes and businesses in flood risk areas
- 10% of critical infrastructure (power stations, water treatment works) and emergency services (fire, police, ambulance) are on floodplains
- Climate change River or Sea Flooding to increase from 330,000 to as high as 1.2 million by 2080



Costs..

- Annual cost of flooding could rise from £1 billion to £5.6 billion at today's prices by 2080
- Every £1 spent on flood prevention saves £8 in repair costs
- ABI estimate flood damage costs to have increased by 200%
- Increasing flood defences would need to see an additional £1 billion extra per annum on top of the current £579 million



Human cost

- Loss of life
- Loss of homes
- Loss of livelihoods
- Loss of savings



What does our research tell us?



- Local authorities are at the heart of the response to flooding but should be at the heart of flood prevention and better local water management as well!
- There is a critical need for national long-term investment but
- Local councils need to mobilise their own resources, and think strategically about both flood and drought risk and water management in the local area

Ten things you should be doing now!



- Make long-term planning a fundamental part of your local authority's financial and planning cycle
- Establish a pan-council project group to oversee an integrated water management framework – elected member leadership is crucial
- Consider collaborating with other local authorities and support agencies before instigating your 'all in one' water management framework



- Identify opportunities for shared services to enable you to do more with less, pool skills and budgets
- Prepare a water cycle baseline for your area – you may have a flood today but a drought tomorrow
- Ensure floodable assets – parks, town squares, accessible public spaces – so that they can operate as a normal assets during normal weather or a water store in times of flooding



- Calculate how much your area spends on all types of water products and services such as sandbags, flood gates, and determine how much is locally sourced – see if you can get more local sourcing to get more bang for your green buck
- Raise internal awareness within your council about the water emergency – share best practice



- Ensure you bring local residents, businesses and local MPs on your flood management journey. Water conservation may be a hard sell if people have recently been flooded but it is an essential part of holistic water management
- Commit to issuing regular performance reports, internally and externally, so that colleagues, voters and national government alike recognise the problem and value the progress which you make as stewards of place on water

The Stockton – on – Tees Case Study



LOCAL SERVICES

LOCAL SOLUTIONS



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