

# Provisional local government finance settlement 2026-27

Adrian Jenkins/ Dan Bates/ Andrew Cross

19 December 2025



# Running order

- Provisional settlement – summary of key features, outstanding issues, consultation, some distibutional analysis (**Adrian Jenkins**)
- Provisional settlement – full distributional analysis (**Dan Bates**)
- Provisional settlement (case study using Pixel Benchmarking) (**Andrew Cross**)

# Overview

- Distribution (class, local authority)
- Funding resources (key sources of funding, CSP and CG, split between BFL/ RSG/ LA BCG)
- Funding distribution (class, min/max, local authority)
- Components of change (CSP increase without council tax)
- Council tax and taxbase (thresholds, the “six”, second-homes)
- Quantum, Relative Needs Formulas (RNFs), and Resources Deduction (2024 taxbase, LCTS adjustment, calculations)
- Transitional support (floor funding, cliff edge)
- Consolidated grants
- BRRS (BRB, BFL, TTs, revaluation, safety net) plus pools and pilots (rolled-in amounts, WECA), levy account
- Updating the MTFP model (Monday, drop in baselines, analysis of variance to prov)
- SEND funding, LGR
- Consultation responses

# Provisional settlement announcement

- Announced on 17 December 2025: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2026-2027-to-2028-29>
- Consultation period to 14 January 2025: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2026-to-2027>
- Final settlement? Since 2020-21, final settlement has been between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Political strategy to not release any numbers to authorities until the provisional settlement – successfully achieved, but has impacted on local authority budgeting
- Minimal changes compared to the Policy Statement

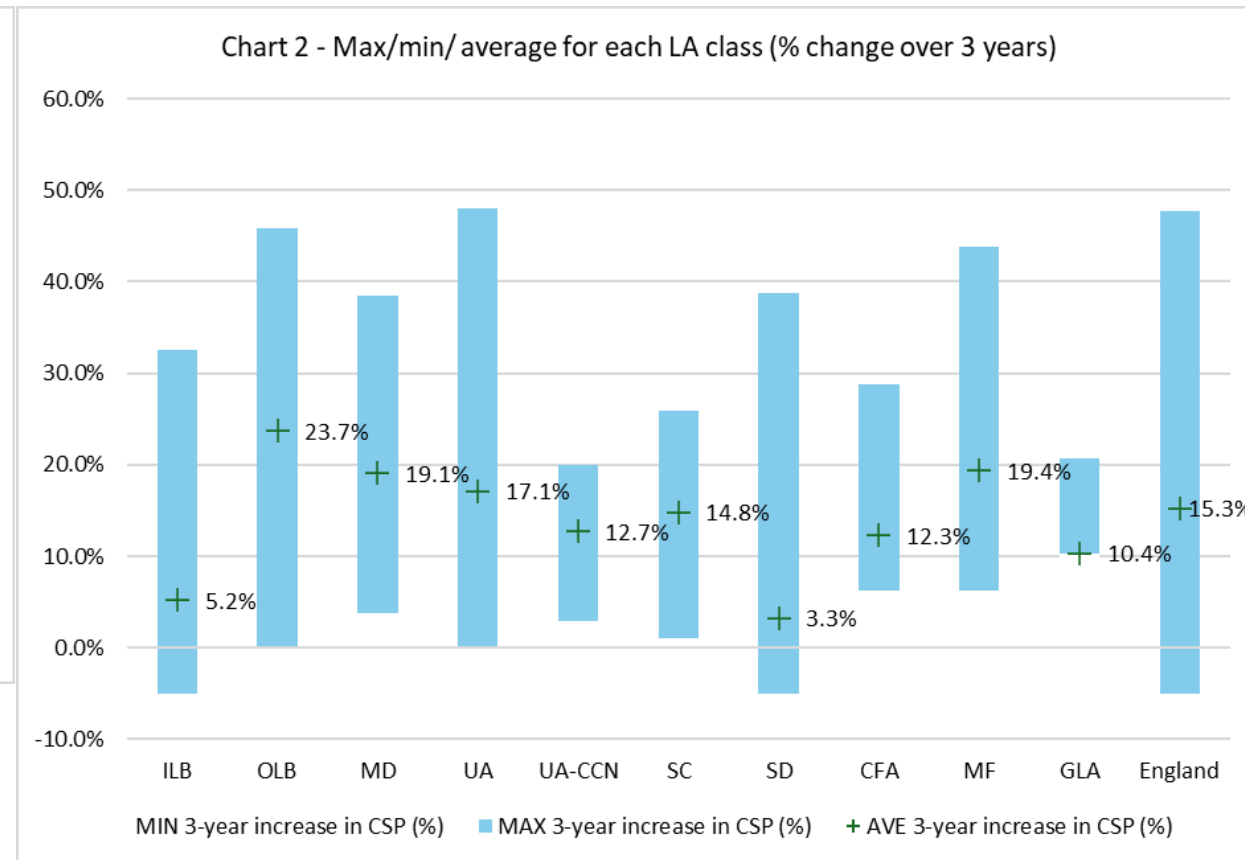
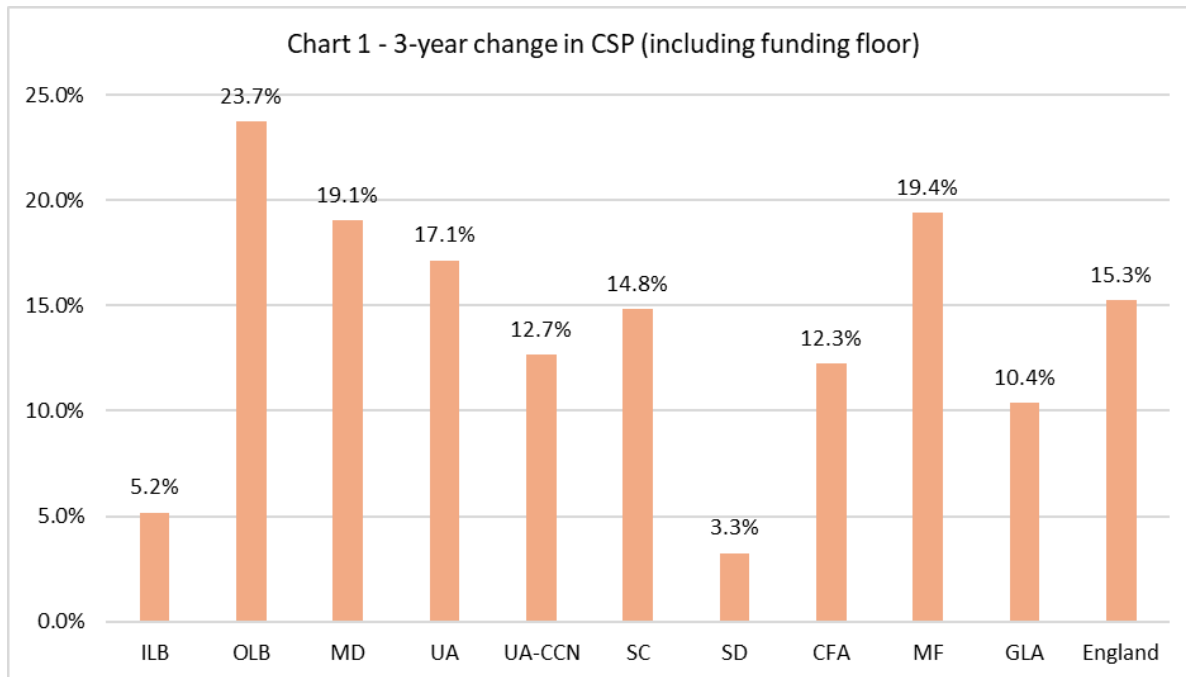
# Ministerial statement

- <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2025-12-17/debates/25121721000024/LocalGovernmentFinanceProvisionalSettlement>
- “We will fix it—giving councils the funding to reinvest in those neighbourhood services that saw the biggest cuts in the last 14 years, such as libraries, street cleaning and youth clubs.”
- “We will introduce an evidence-led system of determining need that properly recognises local circumstances and the costs of delivering services in deprived communities.”
- “We will compensate councils that are unable to generate as much funding through council tax, so no one is punished for living in an area with a weaker tax base.”
- “The multi-year settlement will provide more certainty for councils, enabling them to better plan local provision with stability into future years. We know councils are concerned about what happens at the next spending review and we will continue to work closely with them to avoid cliff edges in funding.”
- “We set out that we would undo the damage of austerity by maintaining the £600 million recovery grant allocations from 2025-26, targeted towards those most impacted by the cuts”

# Provisional settlement – table of funding sources

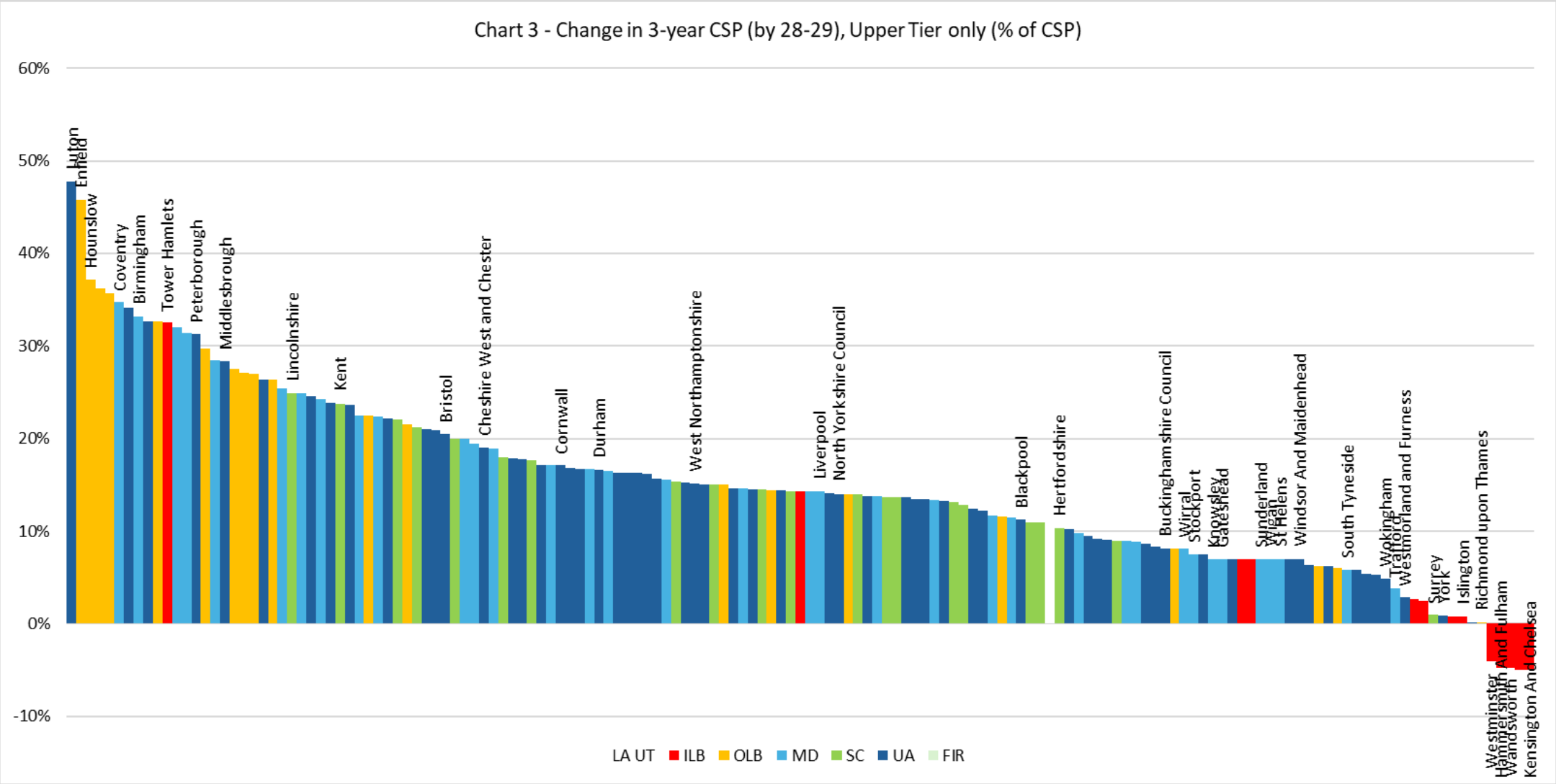
<b>Illustrative Core Spending Power of Local Government:</b>					
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions
<b>Fair Funding Allocation<sup>1</sup></b>	0.0	0.0	33,928.0	34,400.5	34,895.7
<i>of which: Baseline Funding Level</i>	0.0	0.0	16,240.2	16,612.8	16,947.9
<i>of which: Revenue Support Grant<sup>2</sup></i>	0.0	0.0	15,047.9	17,787.8	17,947.8
<i>of which: Local Authority Better Care Grant<sup>3</sup></i>	0.0	0.0	2,639.8	-	-
<b>Legacy Funding Assessment</b>	31,090.3	32,441.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>of which: Legacy Business Rates<sup>4</sup></i>	18,381.4	18,769.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>of which: Legacy Grant Funding<sup>5</sup></i>	10,569.1	11,032.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>of which: Local Authority Better Care Grant</i>	2,139.8	2,639.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Council tax requirement<sup>6,7</sup></b>	36,153.5	38,655.6	41,208.0	44,011.9	46,999.5
<b>Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse<sup>8,9</sup></b>	520.9	725.1	794.3	816.2	835.3
<b>Families First Partnership<sup>10</sup></b>	253.5	523.1	853.1	853.1	729.1
<b>Total Transitional Protections<sup>11</sup></b>	0.0	0.0	146.9	352.8	567.5
<i>of which: 95% income protection</i>	0.0	0.0	103.9	255.9	415.1
<i>of which: 100% income protection</i>	0.0	0.0	40.5	91.1	143.3
<i>of which: Fire and Rescue Real-terms floor</i>	0.0	0.0	2.5	5.8	9.1
<b>Grants rolled in to Revenue Support Grant<sup>12</sup></b>	444.2	543.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Recovery Grant</b>	0.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0
<b>Recovery Grant Guarantee<sup>13</sup></b>	0.0	0.0	148.8	113.3	98.6
<b>Mayoral Capacity Fund</b>	12.5	33.5	33.0	33.0	33.0
<b>Core Spending Power</b>	<b>68,475.0</b>	<b>73,522.5</b>	<b>77,712.1</b>	<b>81,041.4</b>	<b>84,618.8</b>
Core Spending Power year-on-year change (£ millions)		5,047.5	4,189.6	3,329.3	3,577.4
Core Spending Power year-on-year change (%)		7.4%	5.7%	4.3%	4.4%
Core Spending Power change since 2024 (£ millions)		5,047.5	9,237.1	12,566.4	16,143.8
Core Spending Power change since 2024 (%)		7.4%	13.5%	18.4%	23.6%
Core Spending Power change since 2025 (%)			5.7%	10.2%	15.1%

# Distribution (local authority class)

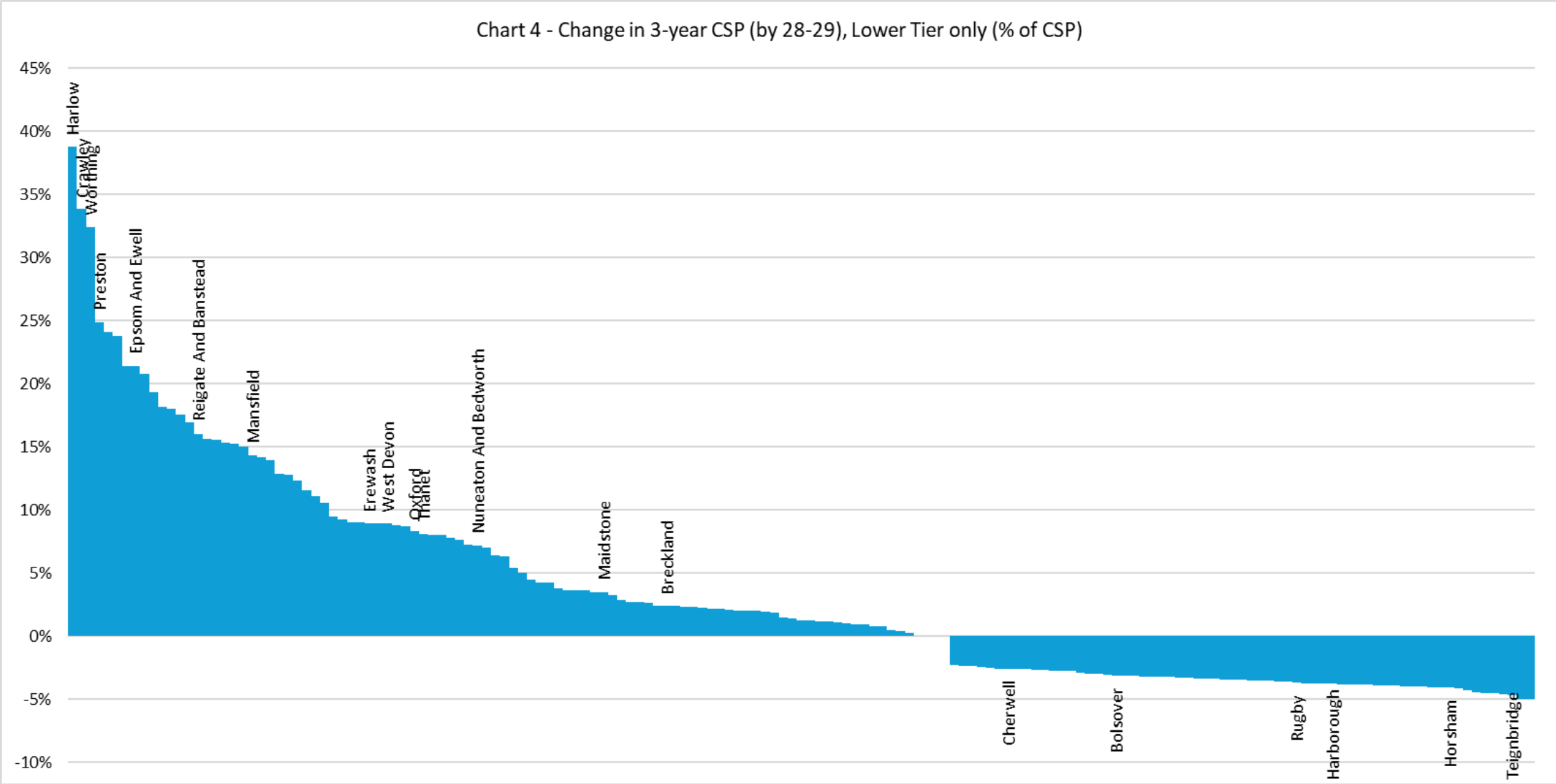


- Shift in resources towards OLB and MD – and away from ILB and county areas
- Shire districts have lowest increase (BRRS roll-in)
- Significant range within each class

# Distribution (upper-tier)

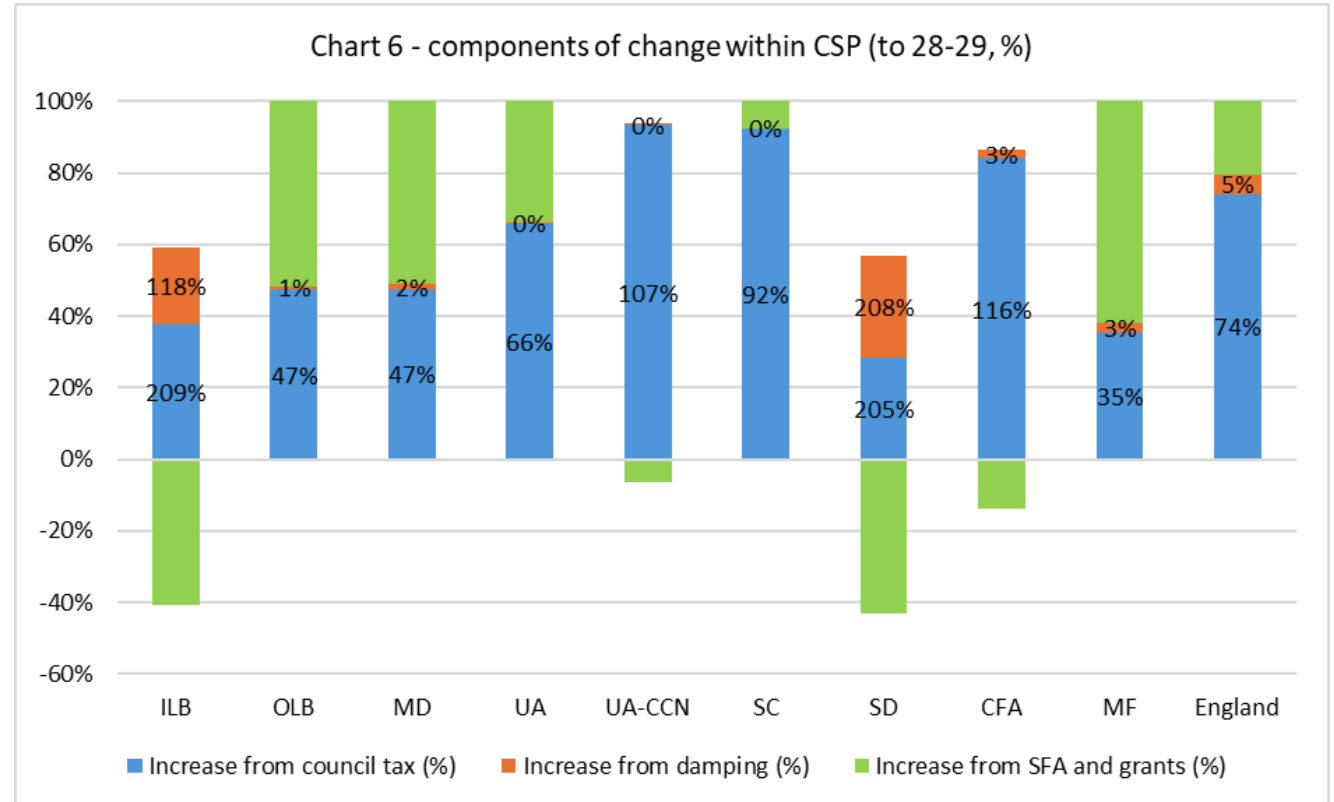


# Distribution (lower-tier)



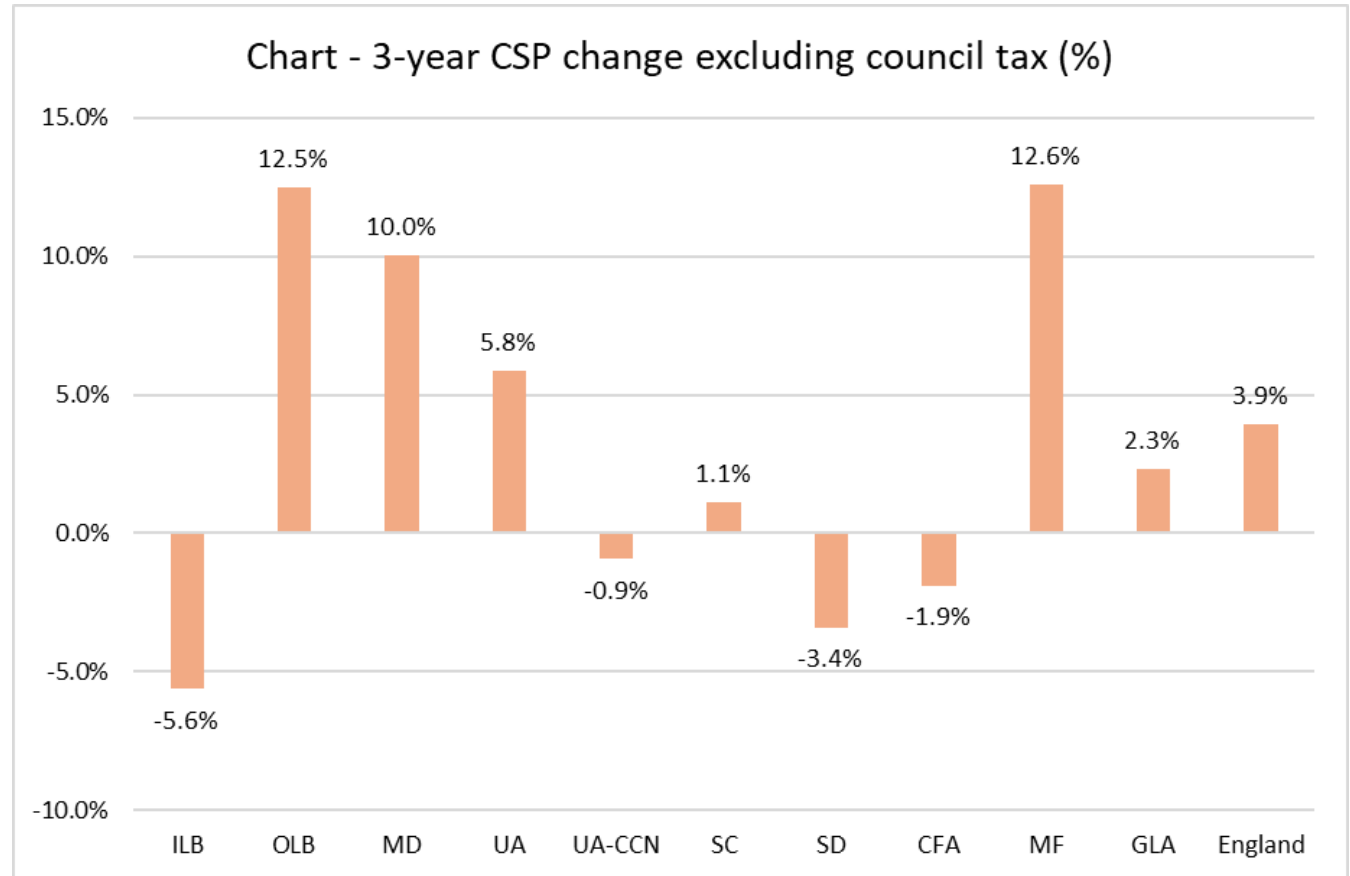
# Components of change

- Council tax increase funds 74% of CSP increase – reliant on local authority tax-raising
- Very high proportion of council tax in county unitaries, shire counties and CFA (92% and above)
- Lower share in OLB and MD (47%)
- Overall, 5% of resources in transitional support in 2028-29 – and very significant in both ILB and SD



# CSP increase without council tax

- Resetting council tax levels an important priority for ministers
- Full council tax equalisation
- Without council tax increases, only those classes with relatively low proportion of taxbase will have funding increases
- County areas have higher taxbases (relative to needs) and so are more reliant on council tax increases
- Inner London just has really big cuts in funding!!



# Council tax and taxbase assumptions

- Main thresholds for Band D:
- Upper-tier: 4.99%
- Shire district: higher of 2.99% or £5
- Fire authority: £5
- GLA police: £15
- £15 for police and crime commissioners
- MCA: no limit, except for fire
- No upper threshold for the “six” in 27-28 and 28-29
- In CSP assumptions:
- £150 in Band D increase for the “six” (City of London, Westminster, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Kensington and Chelsea)
- Second-homes included within taxbase trends – error? To be reversed?
- No impact on FFA funding within CSP, unless at or near funding floor – it is presentational

Local authority	Class	Council tax (per 5-17 model)	Council tax (per pLGFS)	Difference (£M)	Difference (%)
City of London	ILB	10.3	11.1	0.8	7.9%
Kensington And Chelsea	ILB	110.9	114.5	3.5	3.2%
Westminster	ILB	77.1	79.5	2.4	3.1%
North Norfolk	SD	8.0	8.2	0.2	3.1%
South Hams	SD	9.1	9.3	0.3	2.8%
Isles of Scilly	UA	2.5	2.6	0.1	2.7%
Tower Hamlets	ILB	157.7	160.7	3.0	1.9%
Isle of Wight Council	UA	121.9	123.8	2.0	1.6%
Cornwall	UA-CCN	470.7	478.3	7.5	1.6%
Great Yarmouth	SD	6.3	6.4	0.1	1.5%
Westmorland and Furness	UA-CCN	196.5	199.3	2.9	1.5%
Kings Lynn And West Norfolk	SD	9.9	10.1	0.1	1.4%
North Devon	SD	8.5	8.6	0.1	1.3%
Cotswold	SD	7.3	7.4	0.1	1.3%

# Quantum

# Weighted Relative Needs Formulas (RNFs)

- Small movement in weightings (move back again from county to district Foundation Formula)
- Remoteness removed from all the Area Cost Adjustments (ACA), with the exception of Adult Social Care.
- 2025 IMD used in the Foundation Formula.
- Children's Services RNF updated for the 2025 IDACI, which included the impact of housing costs on income deprivation.
- 2022-based population projections instead of mid-2024 population estimates. Compare shares of population.
- These issues will be revisited in the consultation response and lobbying in the new year

# Resources Deduction

- Still using the 2024 CTB1 – not yet updated for 2025 CTB1. Might explain some of the variances between our resources deduction and provisional settlement (esp Manchester)
- No change in Band D assumptions. Implied 2025-26 is £1,965. 2026-27 = £2,060, 2027-28 = £2,160, 2028-29 = £2,265
- We will check through the full calculations (esp for shire districts)
- Working-age LCTS: formula based on regression analysis, not published until provisional settlement. Initial view: this has driven some variances in resources deduction

# Transitional support (funding floors)

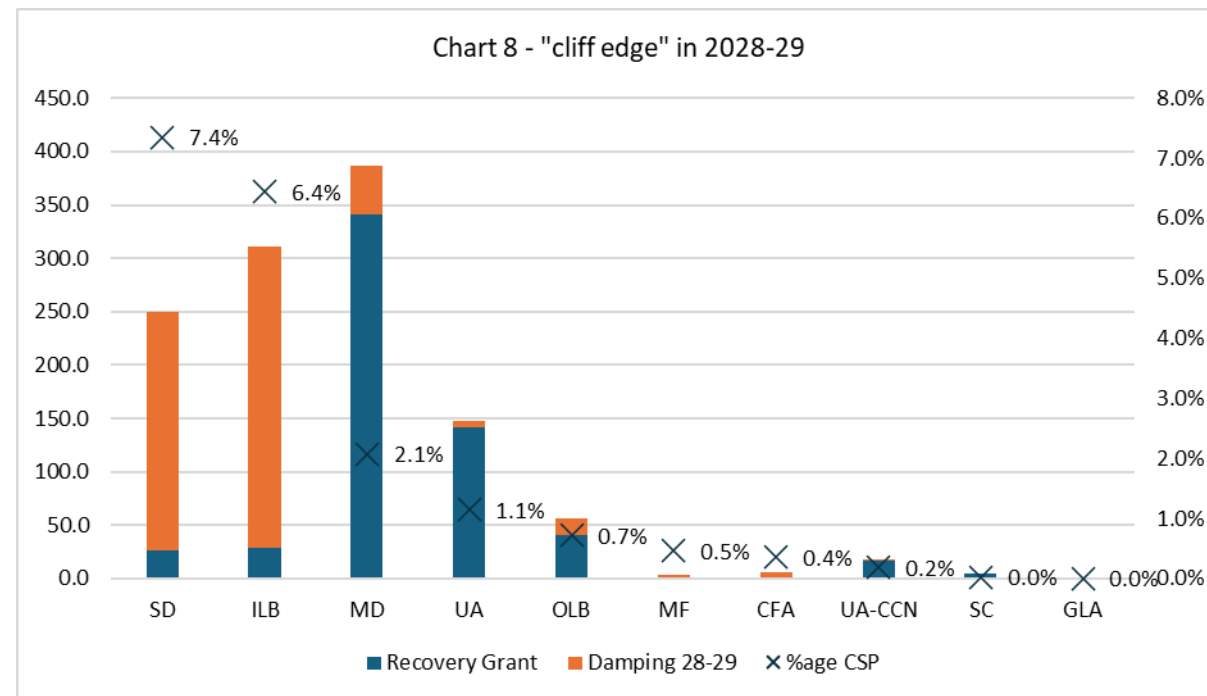
Tier/ class	Criteria	Protection
Recovery Grant Guarantee	Authorities receiving Recovery Grant in 25-26 (excl shire districts)	Real-terms protection (105% in 26-27, 106% in 27-28 and 107% in 28-29)
Fire authorities	All authorities	Real terms protection (TBC)
Upper tier	<15% above funding target	Cash-terms protection
Lower tier (shire districts)	<15% above funding target	
Upper tier	>15% above funding target, low Band D	95% protection (i.e. -5% floor in 2026-27, 0% in following two years)
Lower tier (shire districts)	>15% above funding target	

		100% income protection floor	95% income protection floor	Fire and Rescue real-terms floor	Recovery Grant Guarantee	Total
2026-27	£M	40.5	103.9	2.5	148.8	295.7
2027-28	£M	91.1	179.6	5.8	113.3	389.8
2028-29	£M	143.3	296.2	9.1	98.6	547.2
2026-27	No of LAs	38	38	5	22	
2027-28	No of LAs	39	64	5	14	
2028-29	No of LAs	39	70	5	13	

- 66 shire districts are at the 95% floor in 28-29, but only 33 in 26-27. Getting 95% in 28-29 but not 26-27: Burnley, Cambridge, Rushcliffe, South Hams, etc
- No shire counties, county unitaries at any of the floors. Only 1 unitary (Bracknell Forest, £5.9m over 3 years) is at funding floor (100% floor). W&M gets higher council tax not funding floor.
- 22 authorities receiving RGG in 2026-27, falling to 13 by 28-29. Four of these authorities also receiving 100% protection (Islington, Lambeth, South Tyneside, Southwark) - £35m cap only affects RGG above the 100% floor.
- Arrangements for City of London to be determined separately

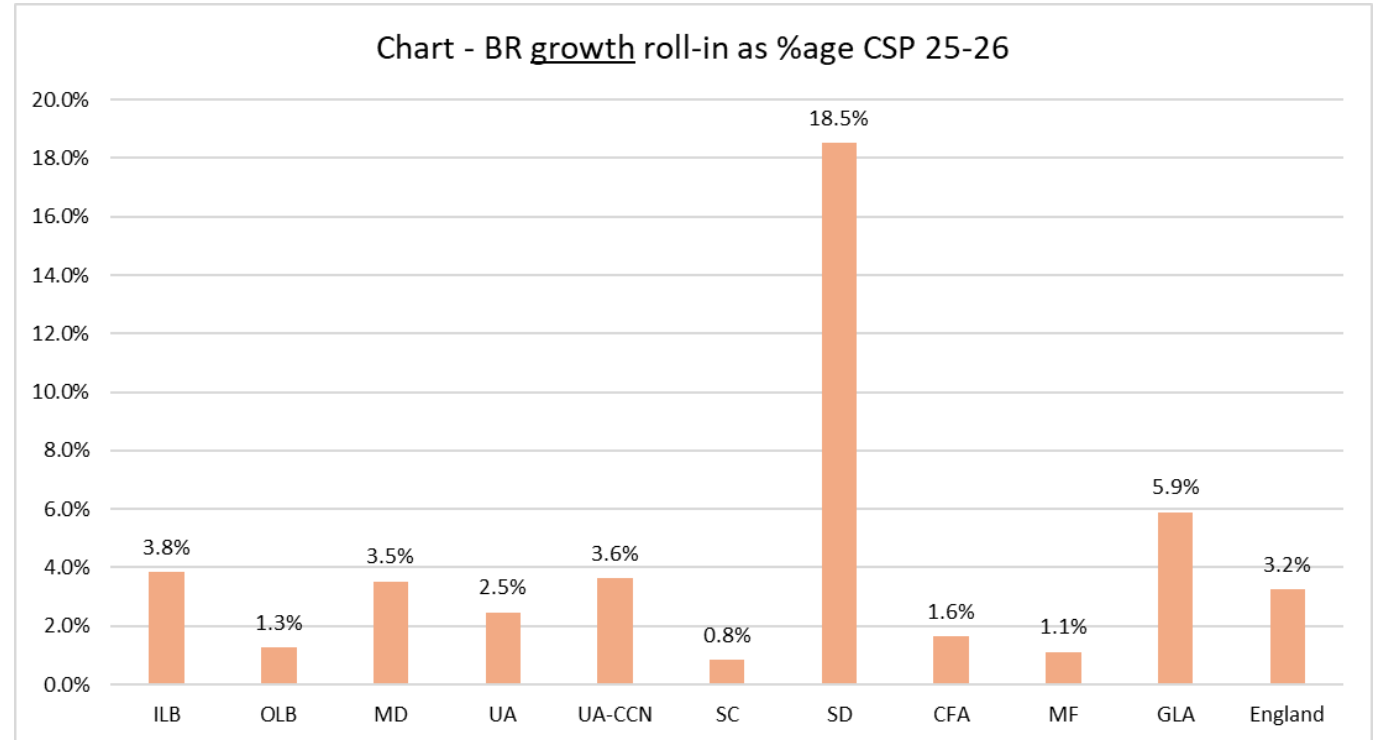
# Cliff edge going into 2029-30

- “We know councils are concerned about what happens at the next spending review and we will continue to work closely with them to avoid cliff edges in funding.”
- Some councils (esp inner London boroughs and shire districts) will be substantially above funding target in 28-29
- Some shire districts could also have further business rates growth by 2028-29
- Very unlikely that these authorities can be brought in line with any realistic funding target in the foreseeable future – implies permanent damping
- Issue for Mets with Recovery Grant is different – it based on a measure of needs (if not the one in the FFA). These Mets better served by addressing FFA.
- Will LGR make the problem go away in shire districts?  
Maybe



# Cliff edge partly caused by BR growth roll-in

- BRRS income roll-in includes pooling and pilots gains
- Pooling gains allocated to pool members based on levy payments (i.e. to tariff authorities)
- Unfair and a better approach was easily achievable
- Hugely increases 2025-26 baseline for some authorities (esp districts but also City of London)
- Principle is to give every authority a baseline that reflects their actual income in 2025-26 – but these authorities did not ever have all the pooling gains
- Rationale is not clear: it has created dysfunctional and more-expensive funding floors



# Additional adult social care funding

- Overall notional amount of additional funding for ASC available in the settlement:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6943b3d1fdbd8404f9e1f293/Methodology\\_note\\_-\\_National\\_available\\_funding\\_for\\_ASC.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6943b3d1fdbd8404f9e1f293/Methodology_note_-_National_available_funding_for_ASC.pdf)
- Estimate an additional £4.6bn, up from the £4bn in SR25
- “This funding is unringfenced (other than the minimum NHS contribution to adult social care via the Better Care Fund and local authority contributions via the Local Authority Better Care Grant). It is for councils to decide how best to use unringfenced income to fund local services.”
- Share for ASC is based on control total weighting (37.24%)

Funding available for adult social care (£m)	26-27	27-28	28-29
Notional increase in Local Government funding for adult social care, compared to 2025-26	1493	2777	4250
1. Of which additional core spending power in scope, available for adult social care	1246	2429	3632
2. Of which “transition funding” available for adult social care	97	98	117
3. Of which Revenue Support Grant funding distributed using adult social care relative needs formula	150	250	500
Increase in the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care via the Better Care Fund	100	214	331
<b>Total additional funding available for adult social care, compared to 2025-26</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b><u>4581</u></b>

# Adult social care conditions

- Local authority notional adult social care allocations: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-priorities-for-local-authorities>
- Only includes local authority funding available through ASC and does not include the NHS minimum contribution through Better Care Fund
- “While these will not be formal spend expectations, notional allocations will provide an illustration of the change in adult social care spending in each local authority, assuming adult social care spend reflected wider changes in overall available funding.”
- Step 1: local authority baseline for each local authority (RA 2025-26)
- Step 2: calculate change in CSP excluding: Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant; Families First grant; transition funding; £900m ASC funding within RSG. (NB: includes ctax increase)
- Step 3: add back £900m ASC funding plus a share of transition funding (see MHCLG note)
- Step 4: apply minimum 6.3% increase (real-terms)

# Consolidated grants (within CSP)

- Final allocations of consolidated grants announced 18 December 2025:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allocations-tables-for-all-consolidated-grants-from-2026-2027-to-2028-2029>
- We have not yet been able to check the amounts and distribution – but will include these in the updated version of the MTFP model on Monday.

# Core Spending Power – RSG, BFL, BRB, LA BCG

- FFA shares – blended shares over 3 years, multiplied by distributable amount
- Other elements – different basis for £900m ASC (Adult RNF), £90m RSG funding local services
- FFA is funded from RSG, BFL, and LA BCG (LA BCG only shown for 26-27, otherwise in RSG)
  
- Baseline Funding Level (BFL). Revised BFL to reflect new FFAs (with quantum revised for impact of new BRBs)
- Business Rates Baseline (BRB). Based on gross rates (set using RV). Deduct: allowances for appeals (3.75%) and bad debts (0.6%), renewable energy, enterprise zones, cost of collection.
  
- Budgeting guidance for business rates – purpose of the changes is to keep authorities at baseline (as at 1 April 2026). 100% safety net (so can budget for FFA and ignore BR income).
- NNDR1 form is available. Correcting adjustment in 2027-28 (in respect of 26-27).
- Support: MTFP model available on Monday. Plus speak to **Mark Catlow** for operational advice about completing NNDR1.

# BRRS – pools, pilots, etc

- 11 BR pools – who, tactics – will they actually happen?
- Coventry and Warwickshire, Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Leicester and Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Mid Mersey, North Oxfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, West Sussex
- Continuing pilots – already in our MTFP model
- No new cap compensation – existing cap comp has been rolled into FFA
- Levy account credit?

# Other CSP and settlement issues

- SEND funding
- LGR disaggregation
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Council of the Isles of Scilly

# MTFP modelling updates

- CSP amounts per provisional settlement for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 (revise FFA shares, resources deduction, transitional support)
- Check correct authorities are at the 95%, 100% floors (and RGG)
- Presentation of RSG and LA BCG
- Update BFL and BRB (and amend gross rates forecasts)
- Update consolidated grants
- Pooling authorities
- Pilot arrangements (already included)
- New safety net and levies (already included)
- Greater London Authority (GLA)

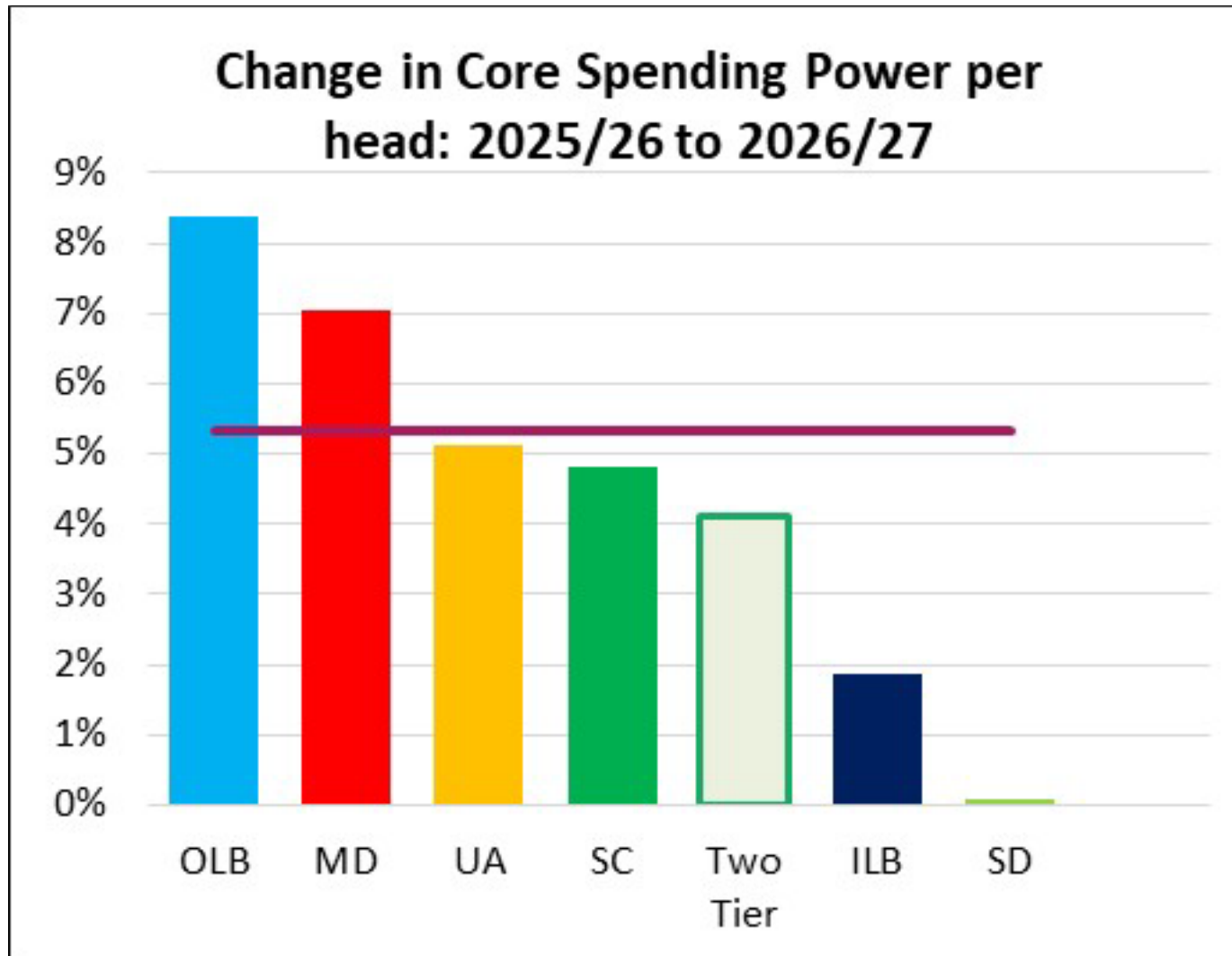
# Consultation responses

- 14 January deadline
- Webinar and support in the new year

# **Analysis of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement 2026/27 to 2028/29**

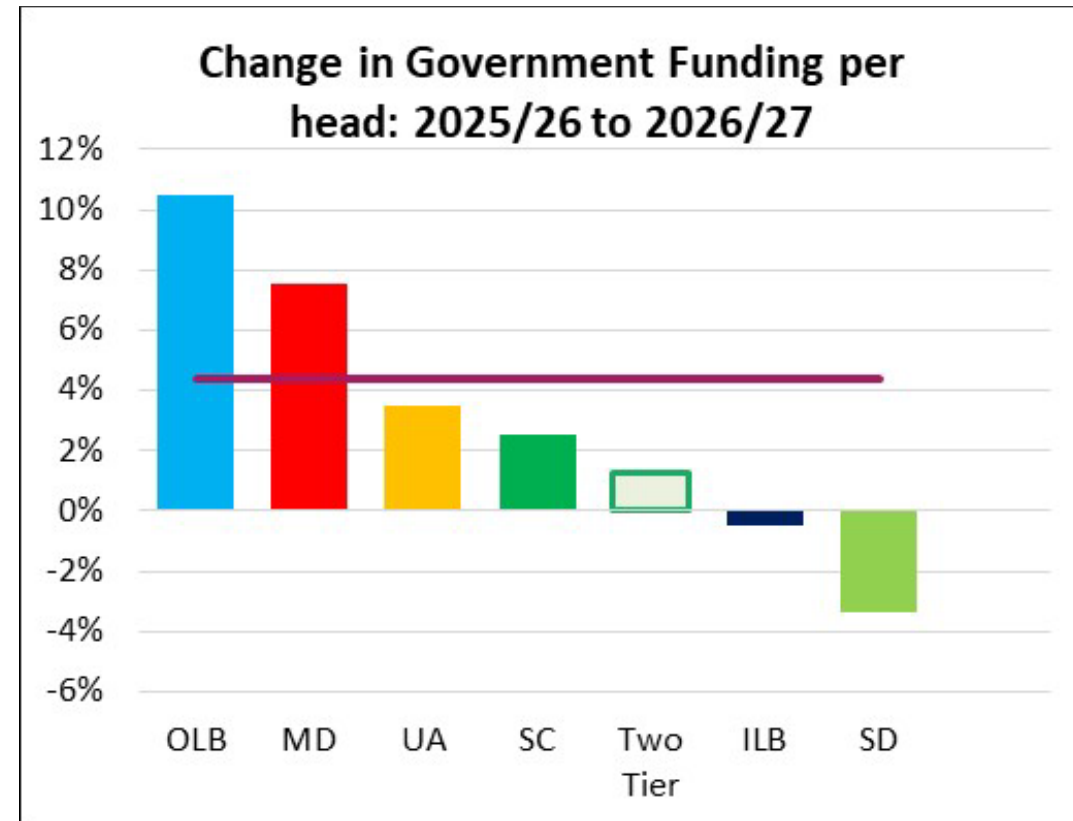
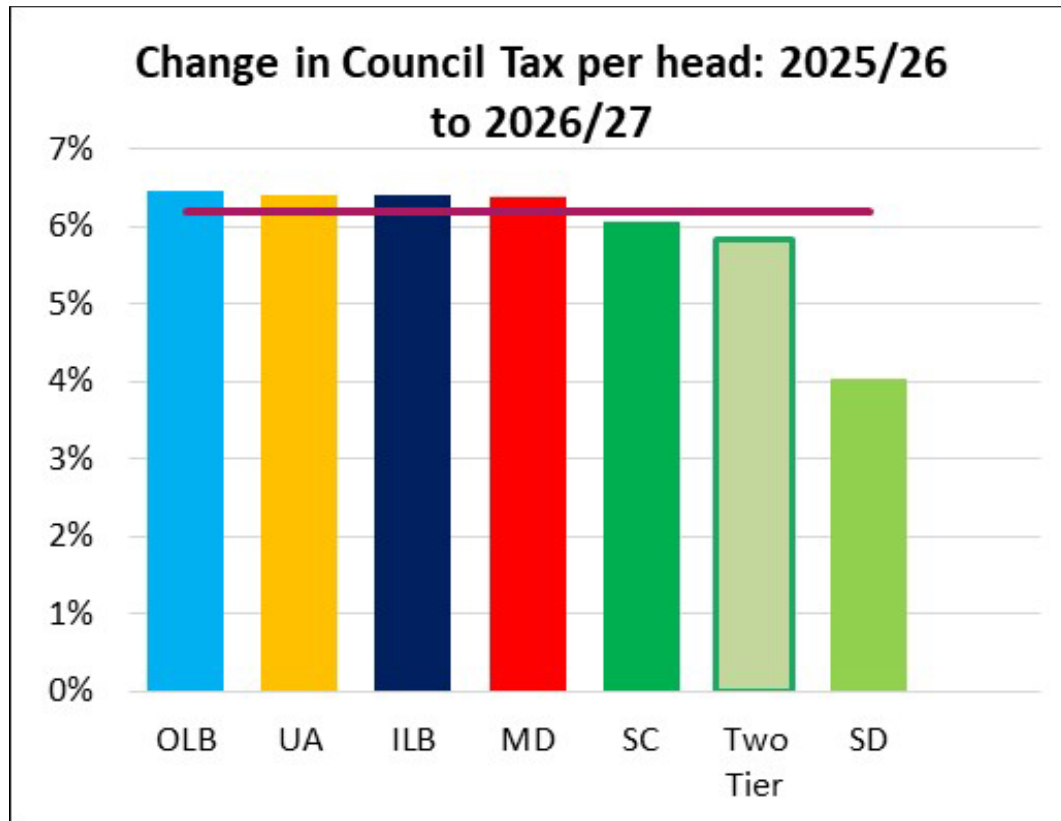
**Dan Bates**  
**19 December 2025**

# Authority type change in CSP – one year to 26/27



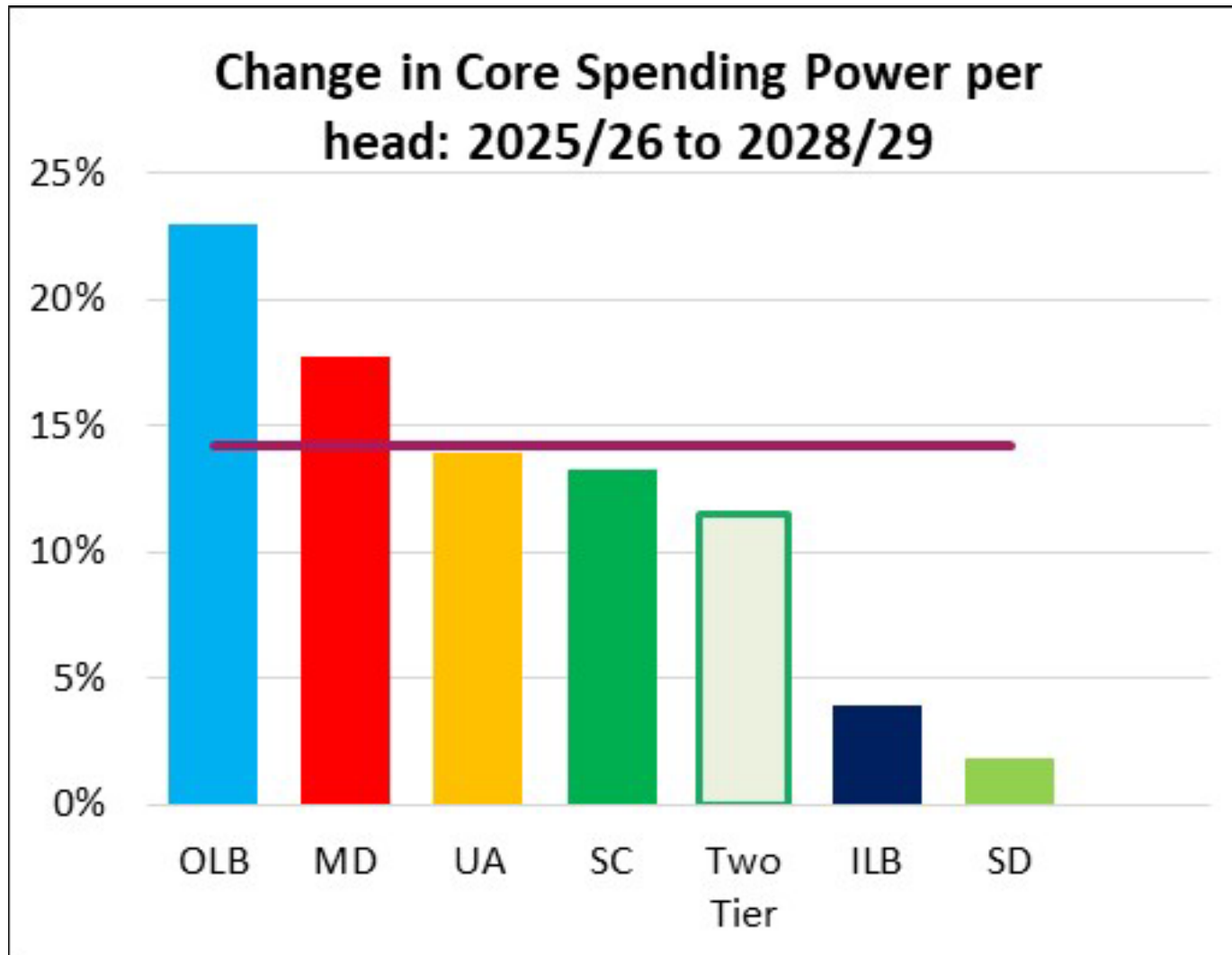
- Outer London and Mets with the highest increases.
- Inner London and Districts with the lowest.
- Significant redistribution for the second year running.

# Authority type change in CSP – one year to 26/27



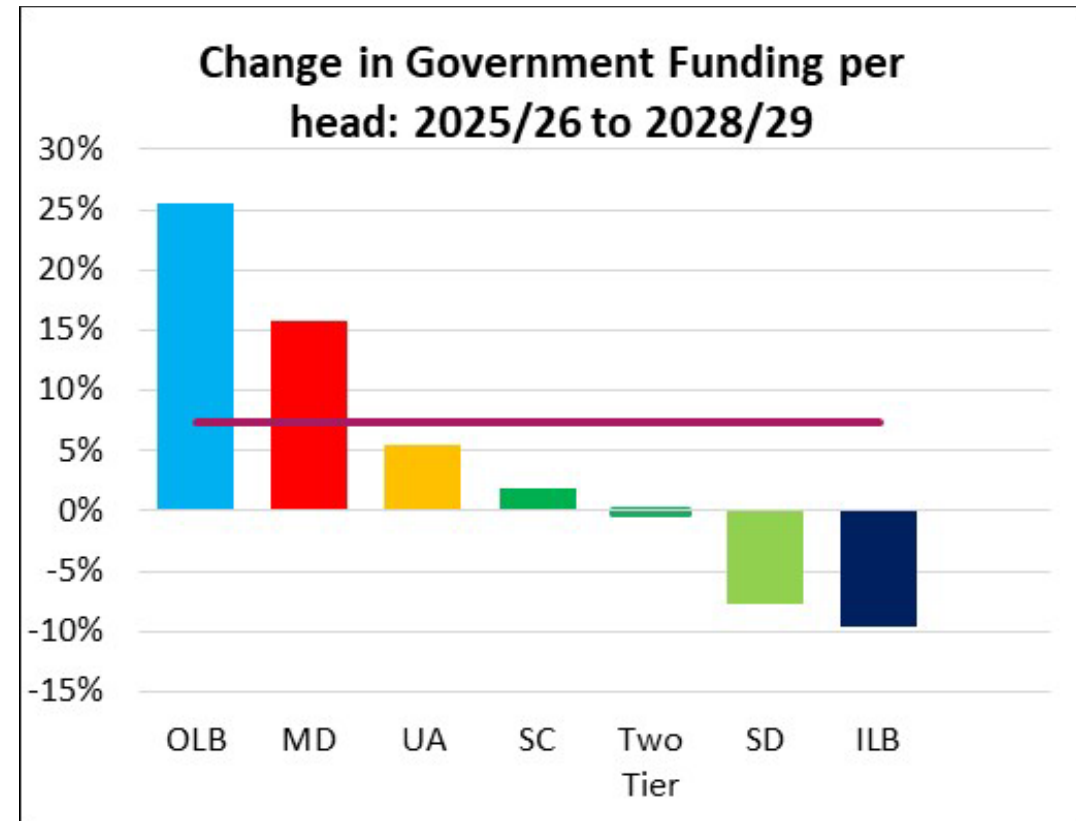
- Redistribution via the government funding elements; revised needs, revised population projections; resources adjustment; recovery grants and funding floors.

# Authority type change in CSP – three years to 28/29



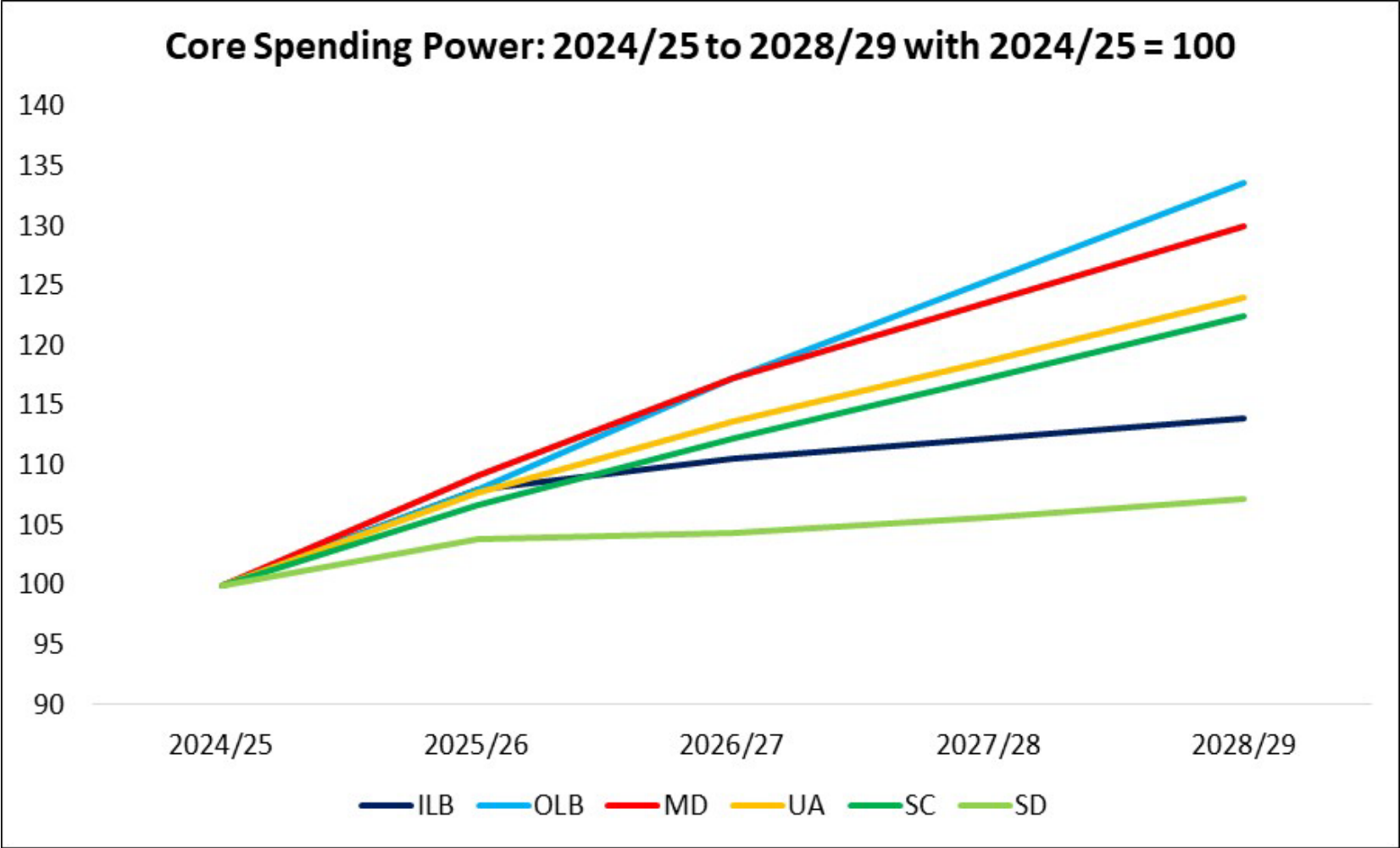
- Outer London and Mets with the highest increases.
- Inner London and Districts with the lowest.
- Redistribution continues over the next three years.

# Authority type change in CSP – three years to 28/29



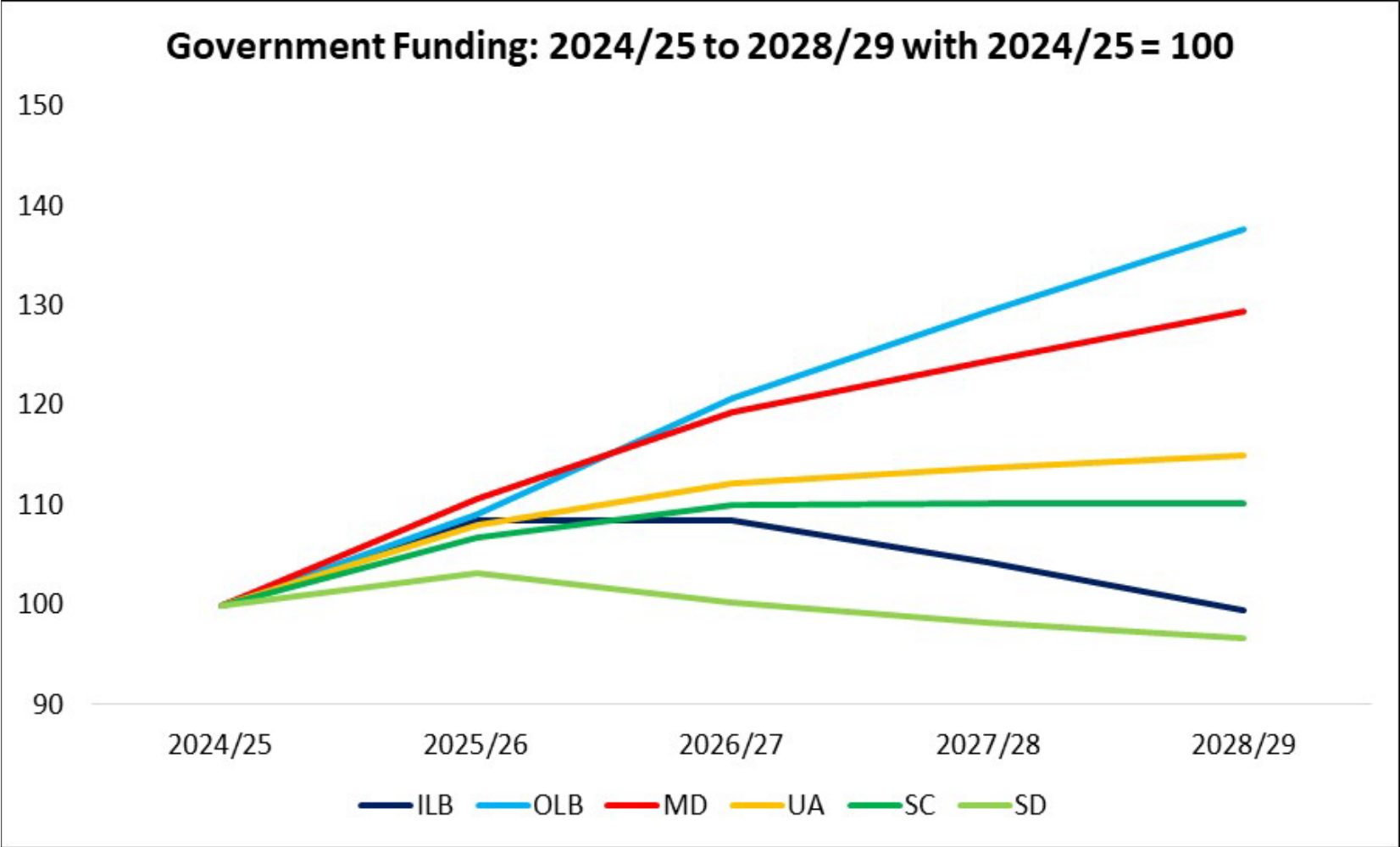
- Redistribution via the government funding elements; revised needs, revised population projections; resources adjustment; recovery grants and funding floors.

# Authority type change in CSP – Labour Government

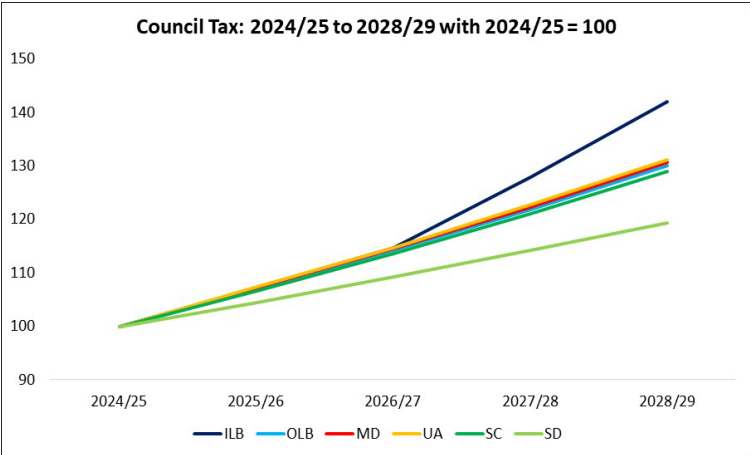


- Graph shows the changes including last year's one year settlement.
- Redistribution which started in 2025/25 continued through for the next three years.

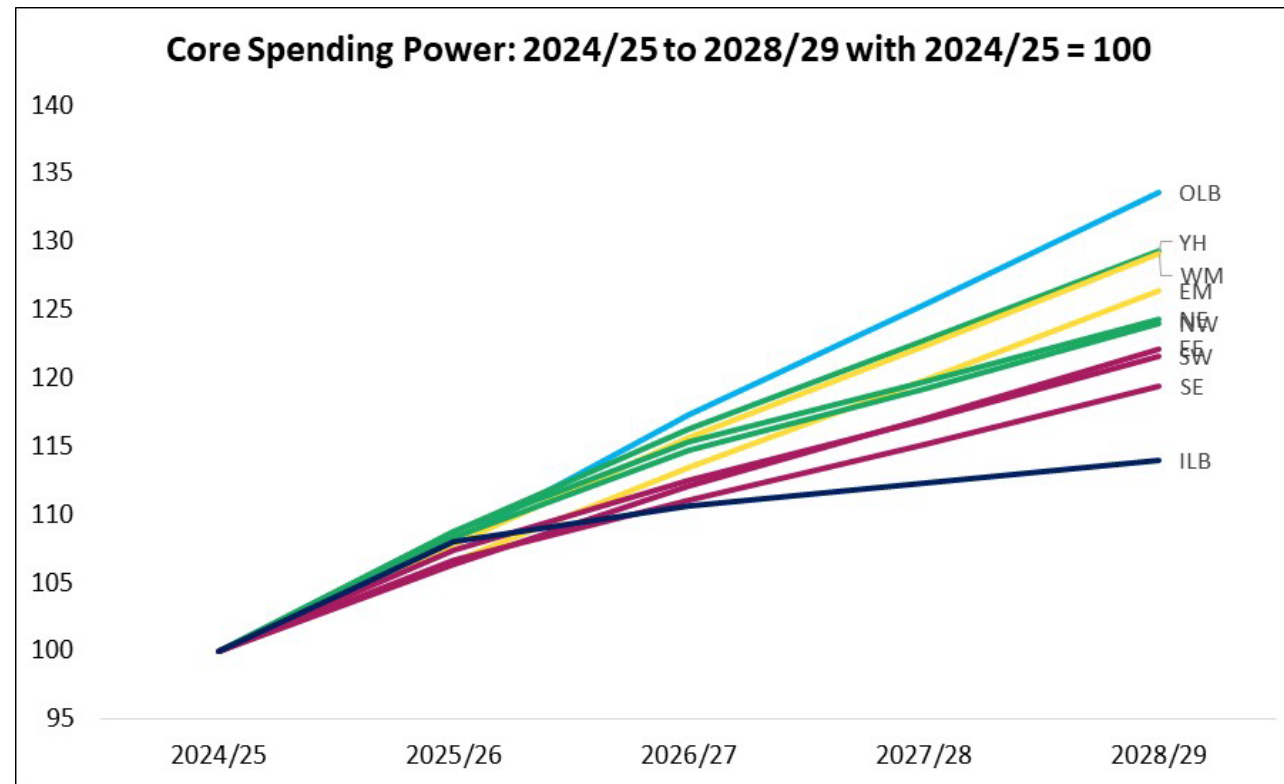
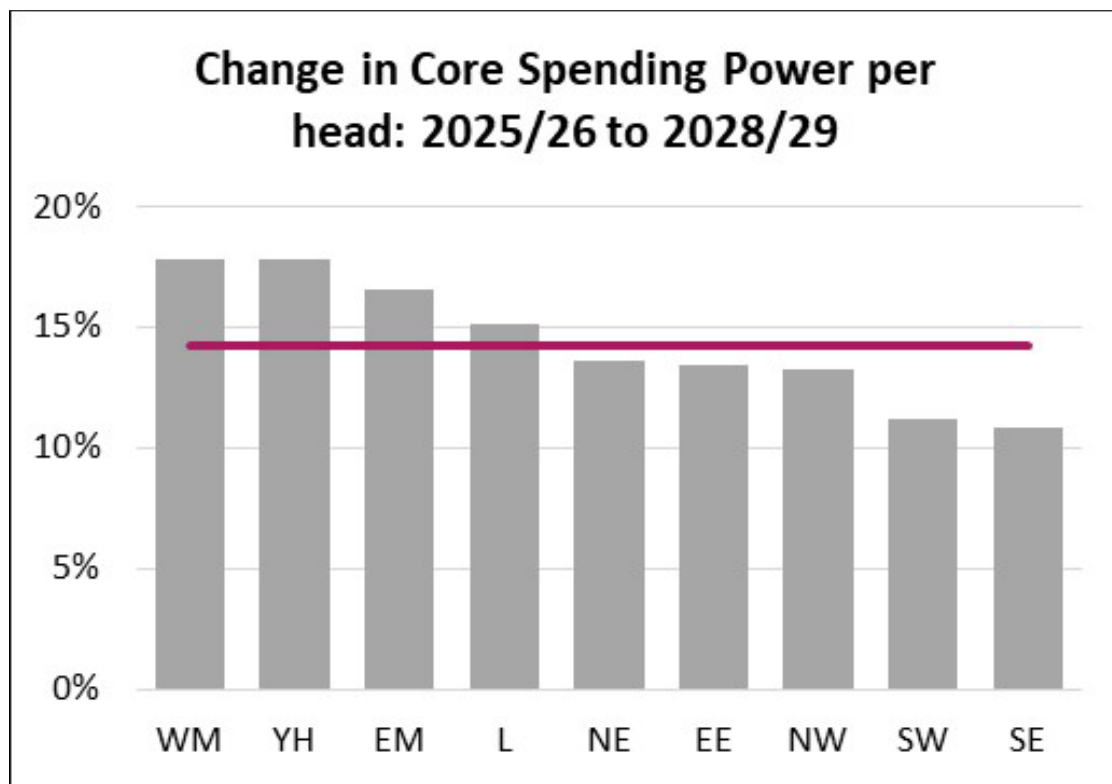
# Authority type change in CSP – Labour Government



- 2024/25 is base year so includes last year’s one year settlement as well as next three years.
- Significant redistributions in funding elements.

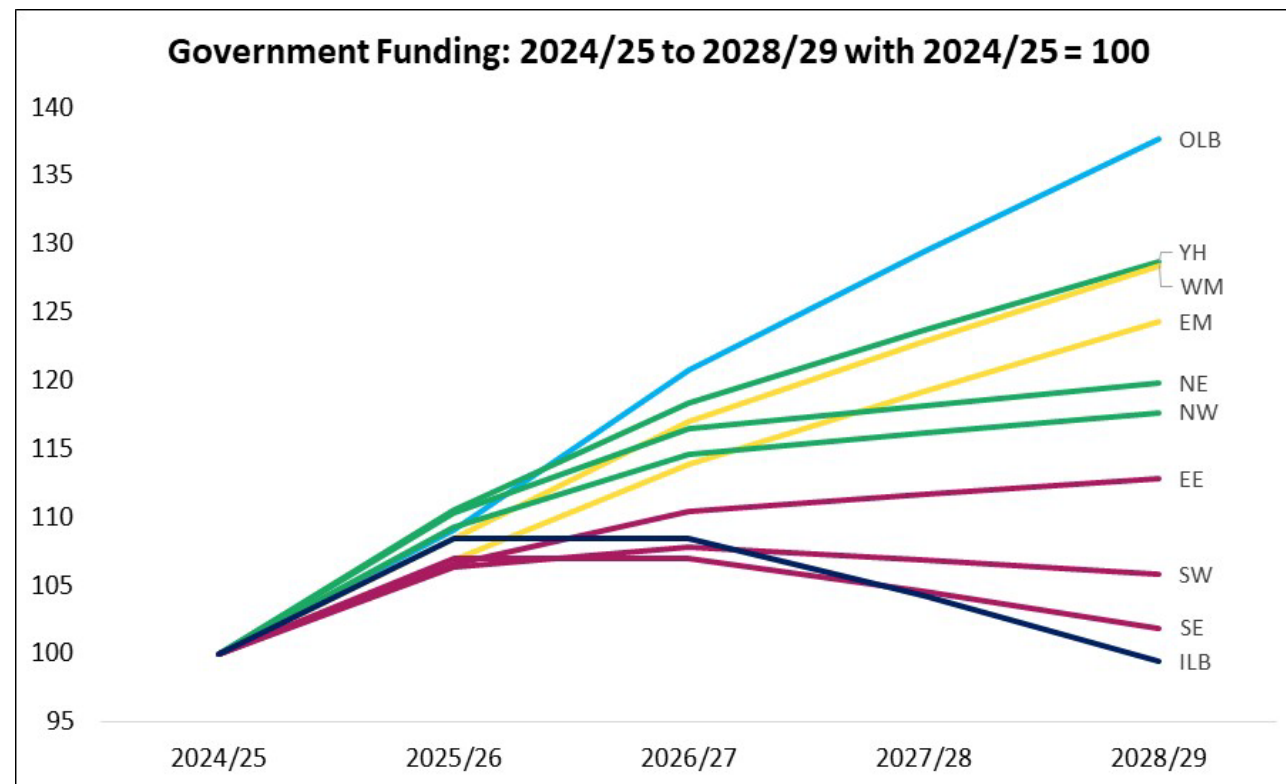
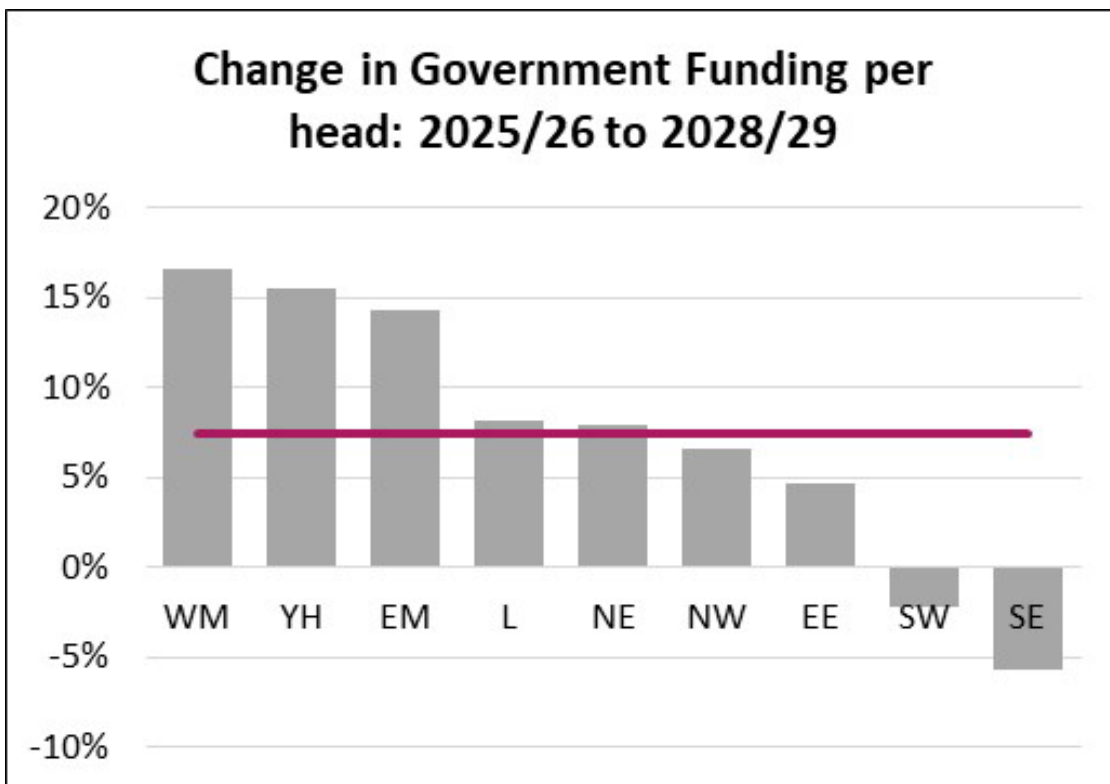


# Regional change in CSP over three years



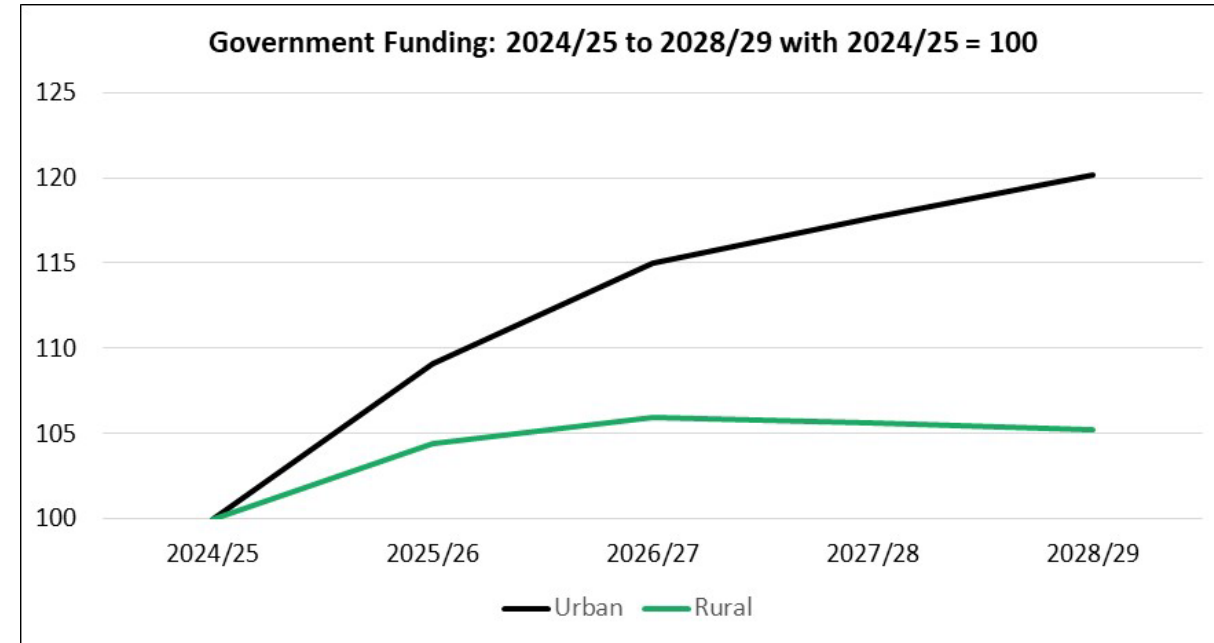
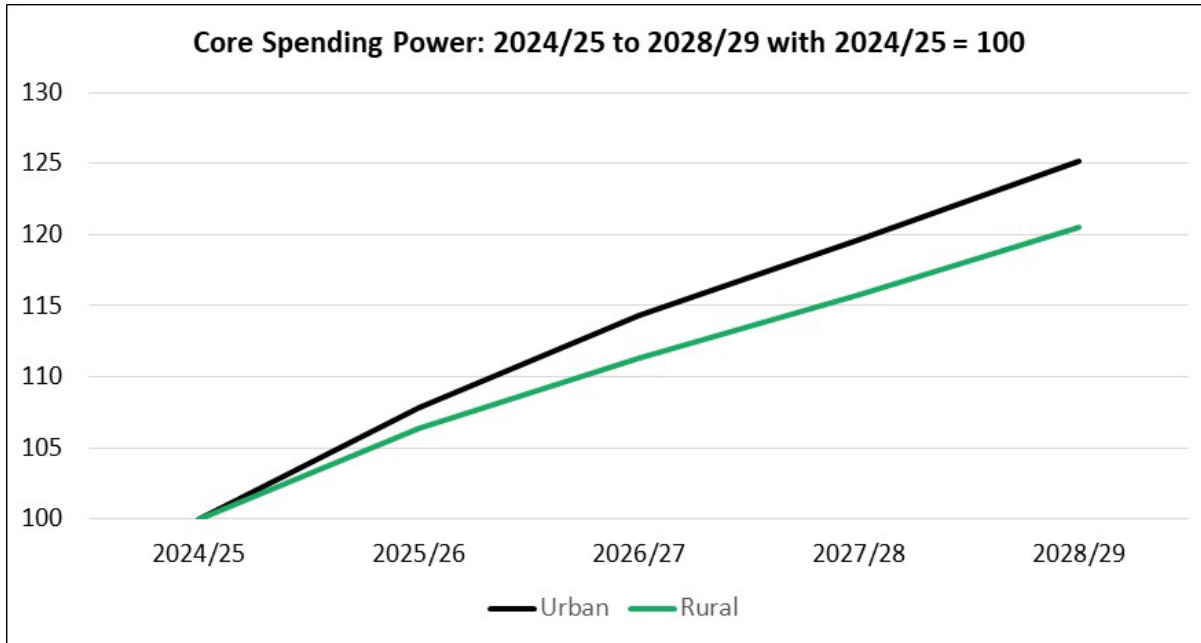
- After Outer London, it is the Midlands which has fared best, followed by the North and then the South.
- Surprisingly, both NE and NW below average increases in CSP over next three years.

# Regional change in CSP over three years



- After Outer London, it is the Midlands which has fared best, followed by the North and then the South.
- Surprisingly, NW below average increases in government funding over next three years.

# Rural/Urban classification change in CSP

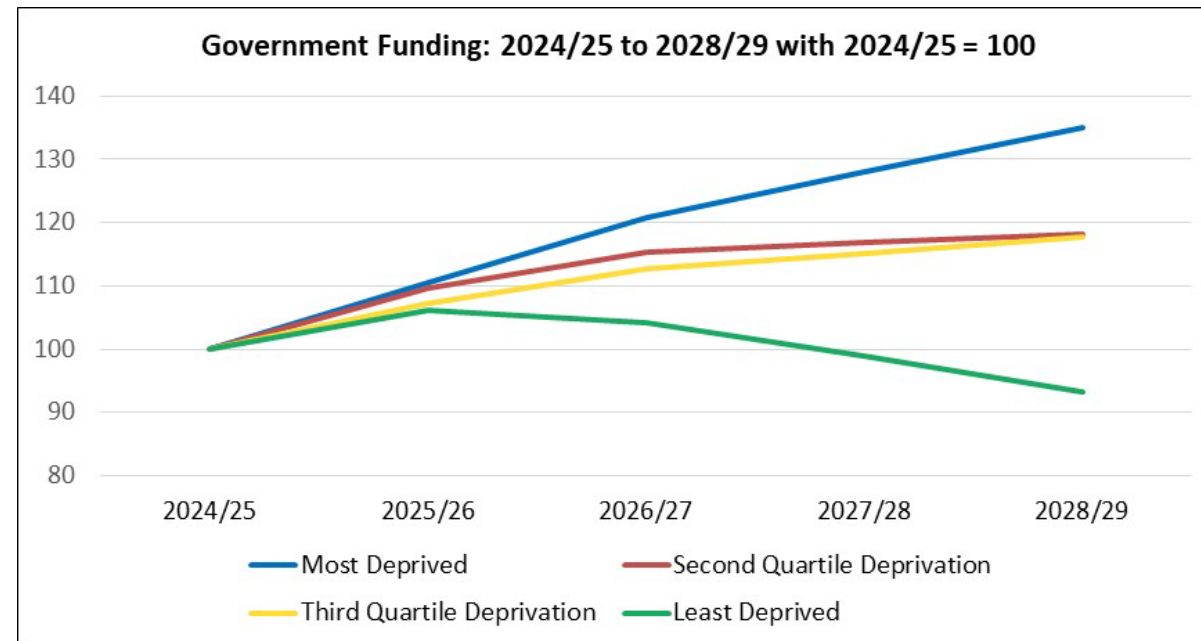
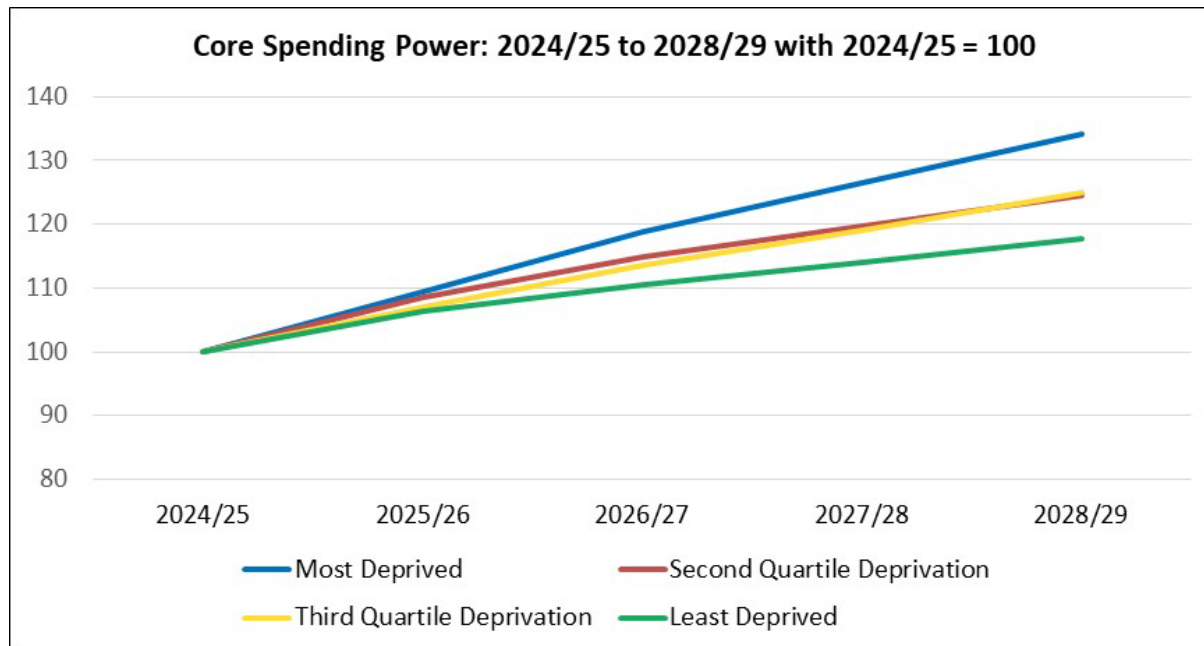


- Rural authorities are amongst the biggest losers in terms of CSP and government funding changes over the next three years.
- IMD2025, Recovery Grant favouring urban much more and the loss of RSDG last year compounded by removal of remoteness in the 3 year settlement.

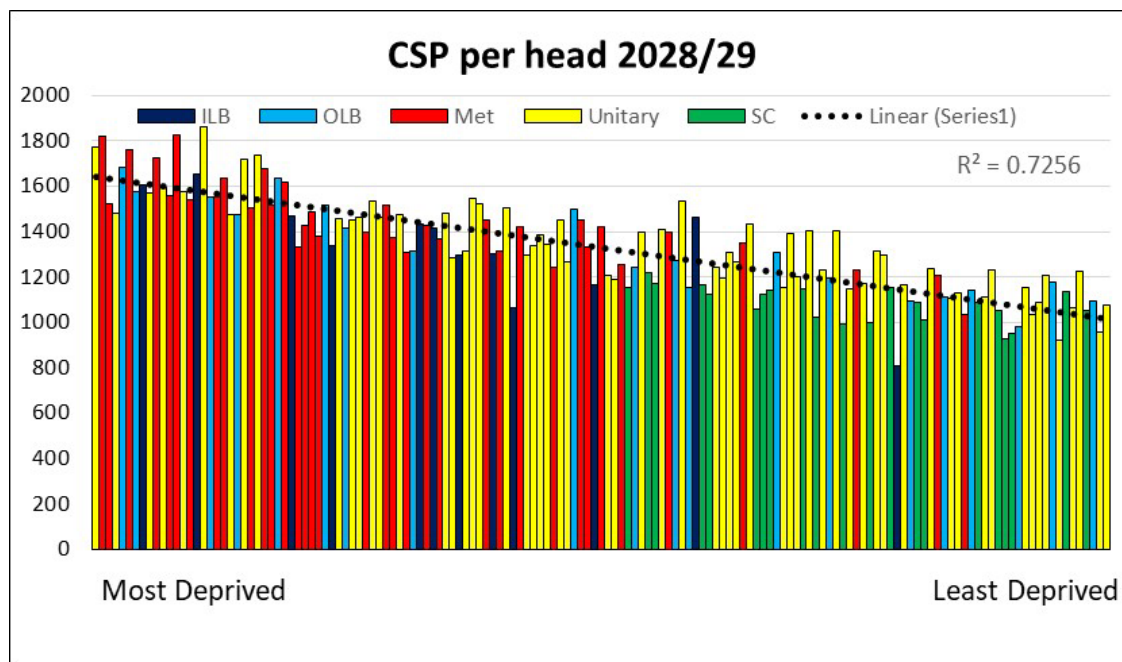
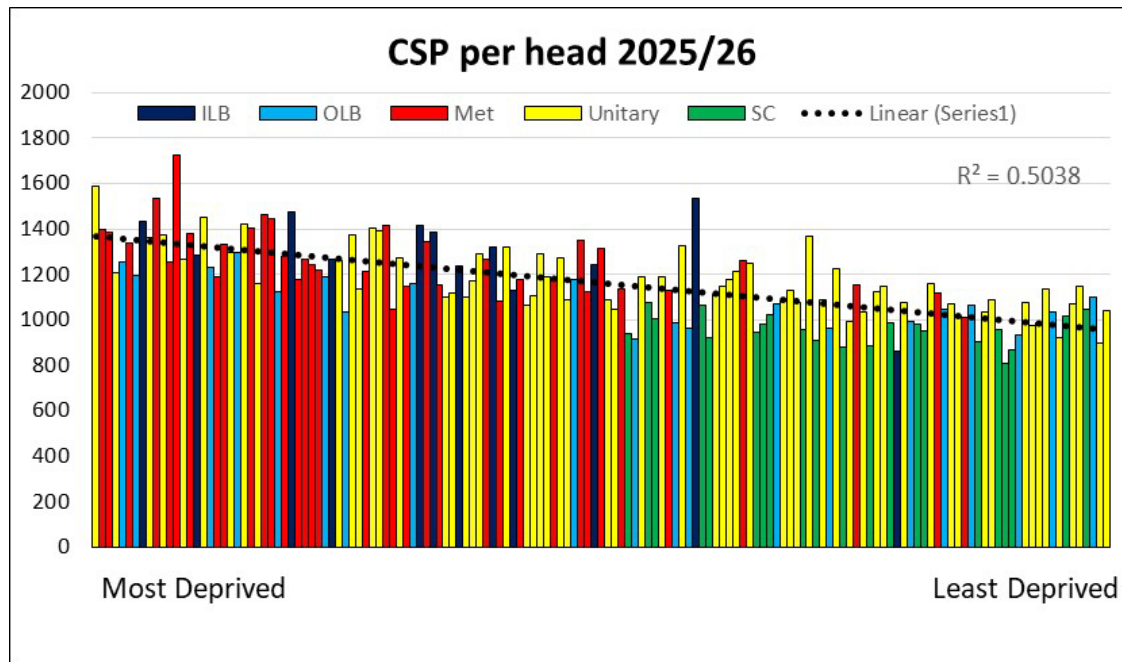
# So has the Government achieved its aims?

- Do we have Fair Funding?
- Is everything more stable!!!!?

# Deprivation: Upper Tier authorities



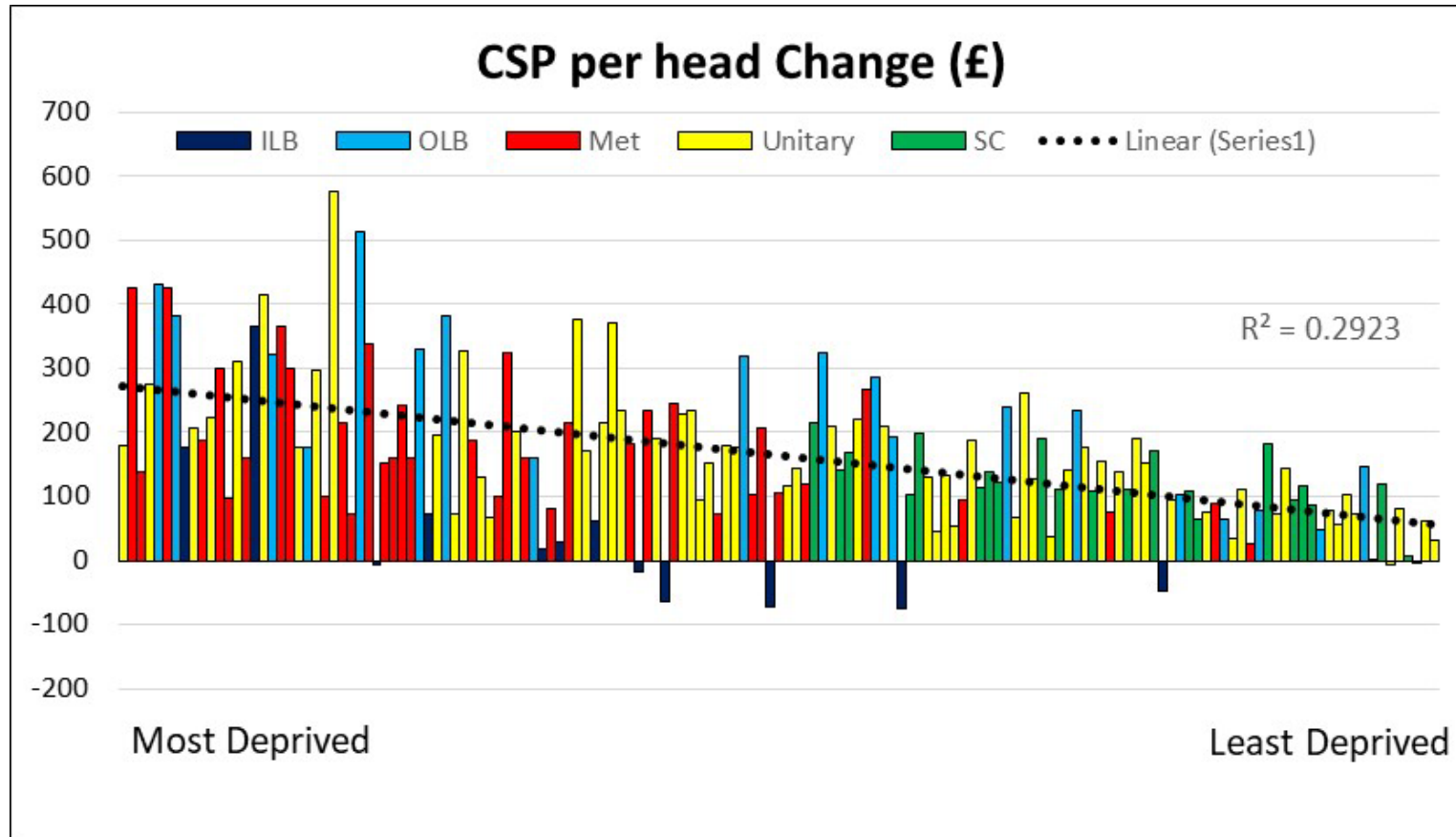
- Core Spending Power gains highest in most deprived authorities and lowest in least deprived authorities.
- These changes driven via Government funding (given that council tax changes similar) redistributions.



# CSP by IMD ranking: Upper Tier

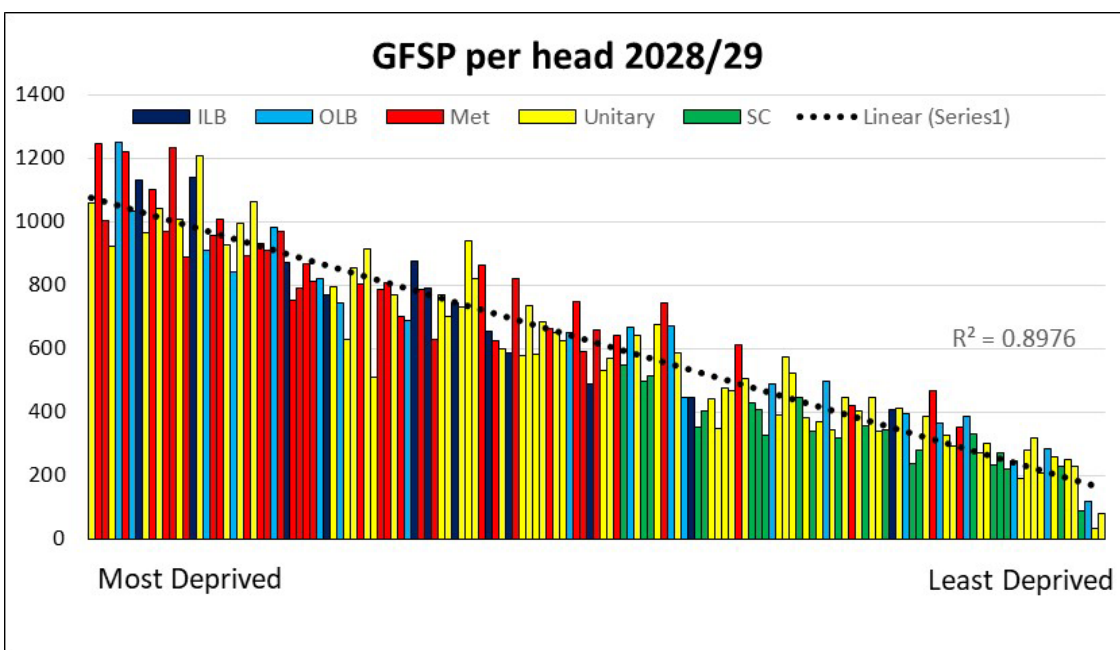
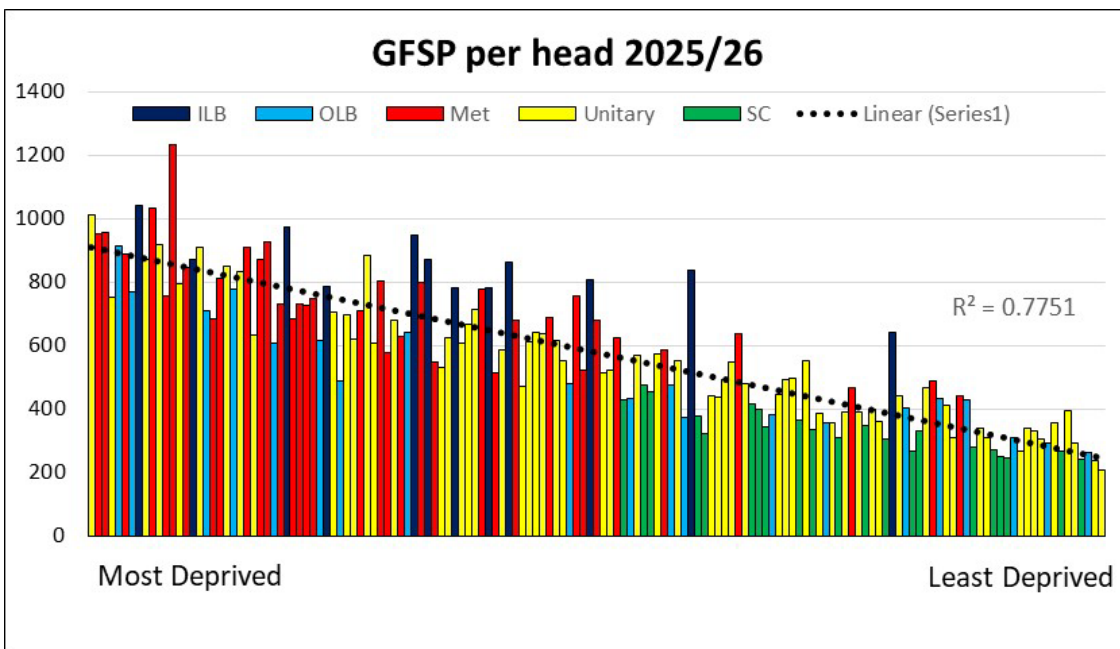
- Comparing CSP per head in 25/26 with 28/29.
- 28/29 shows a more even distribution against line of best fit with far fewer outliers above the line.
- This would support an assertion that funding is fairer.
- OLBs way below the line in 25/26 are now much closer to best fit line.
- But shows the losses to a number of ILB (and Knowsley) that were well above the line in 2025/26.

# CSP by IMD ranking: Upper Tier



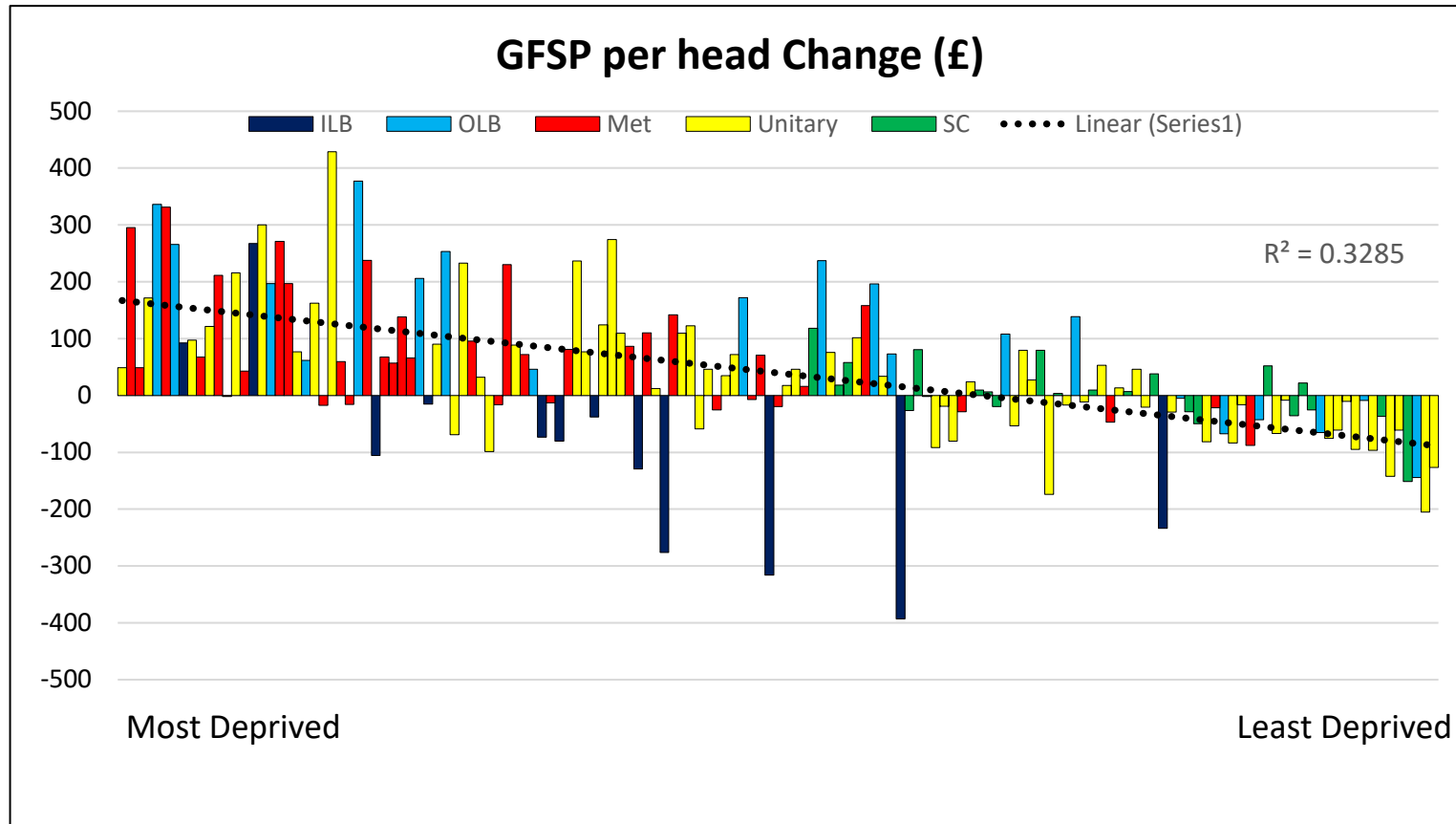
- Graph shows change in CSP per head between 2025/26 and 2028/29.
- Significant redistributions over the period in order to create the more even pattern shown in the last slide.
- Big increases across most (but not all) OLBs and significant reductions for most ILBs.
- Some Mets (e.g. Bradford) and Unitaries (e.g. Luton) have gained significantly but some have done much worse than average.

# Government Funding by IMD ranking: Upper Tier



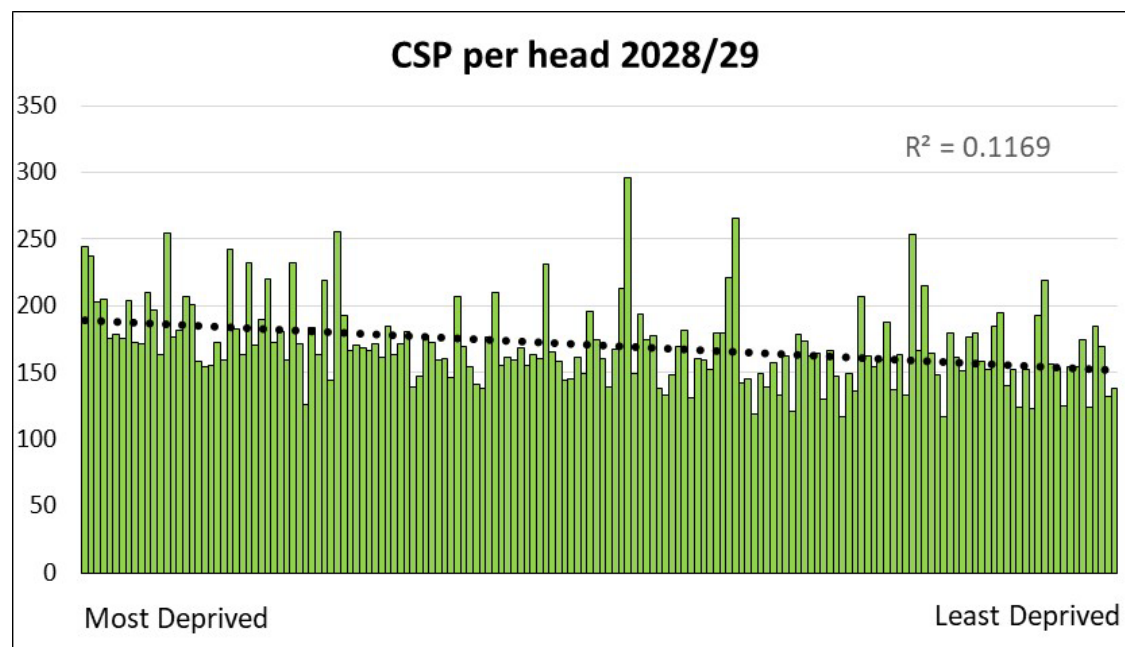
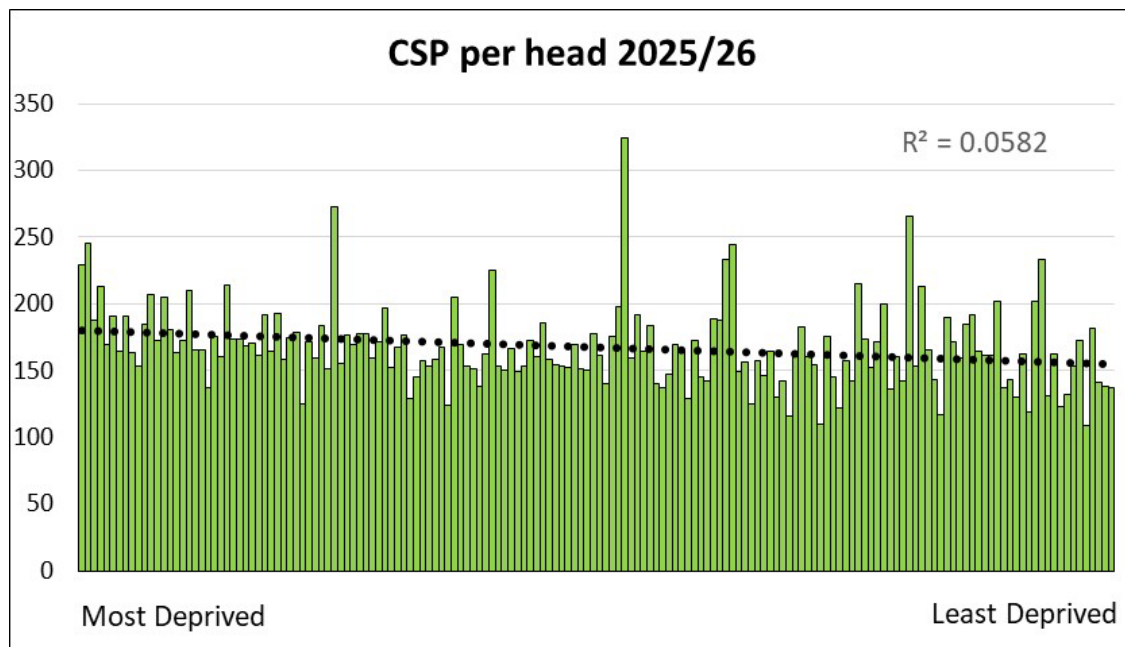
- Comparing Government Funding per head in 25/26 with 28/29.
- 28/29 shows a more even distribution against line of best fit with far fewer outliers above the line.
- This would support an assertion that funding is fairer.
- OLBs way below the line in 25/26 are now much closer to best fit line.
- But shows the losses to a number of ILB (and Knowsley) that were well above the line in 2025/26.

# Government Funding by IMD ranking: Upper Tier

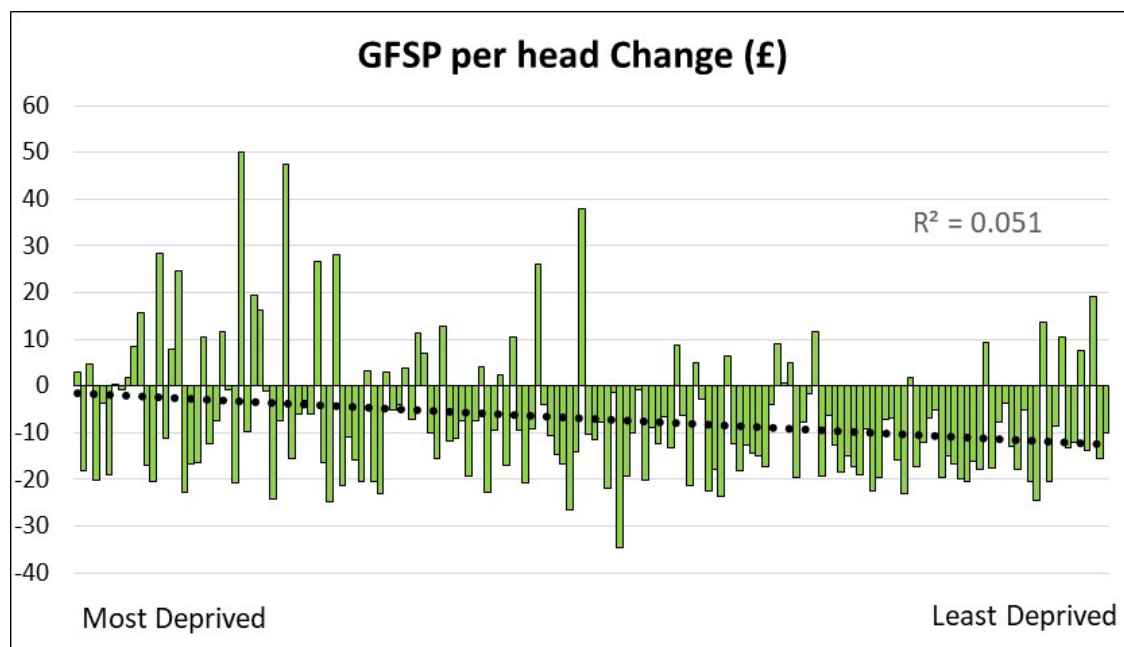
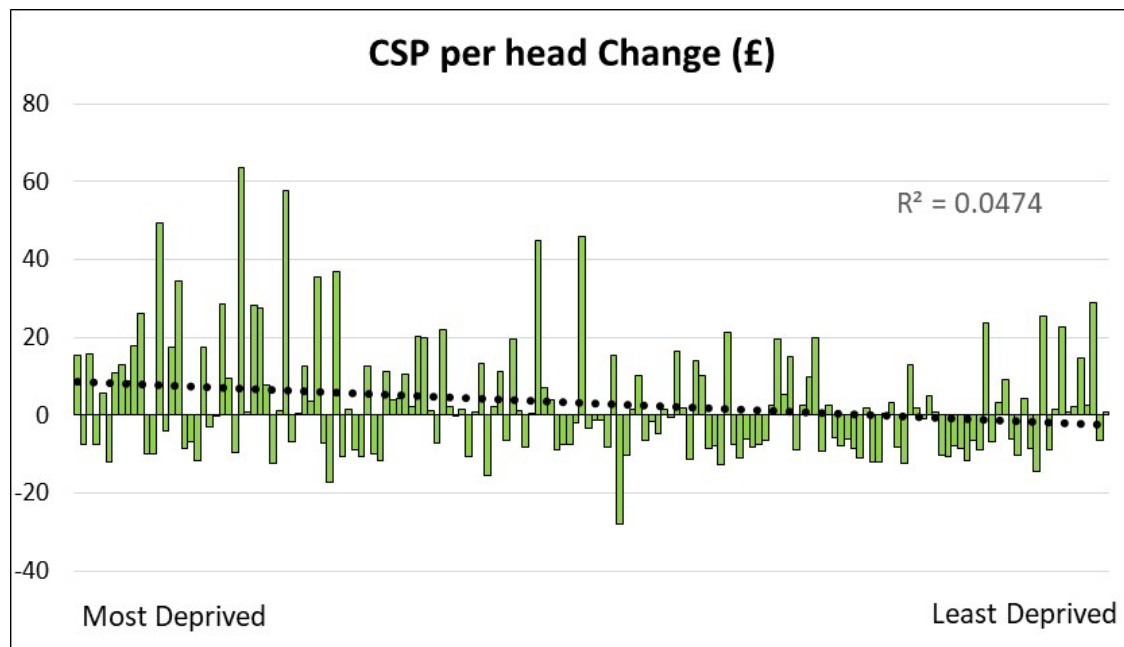


- Graph shows change in government funding per head between 2025/26 and 2028/29.
- Significant redistributions over the period in order to create the more even pattern shown in the last slide.
- Big increases across most (but not all) OLBs and significant reductions for most ILBs.
- Some Mets (e.g. Bradford) and Unitaries (e.g. Luton) have gained significantly but some have done much worse than average.

# CSP by IMD ranking: Districts



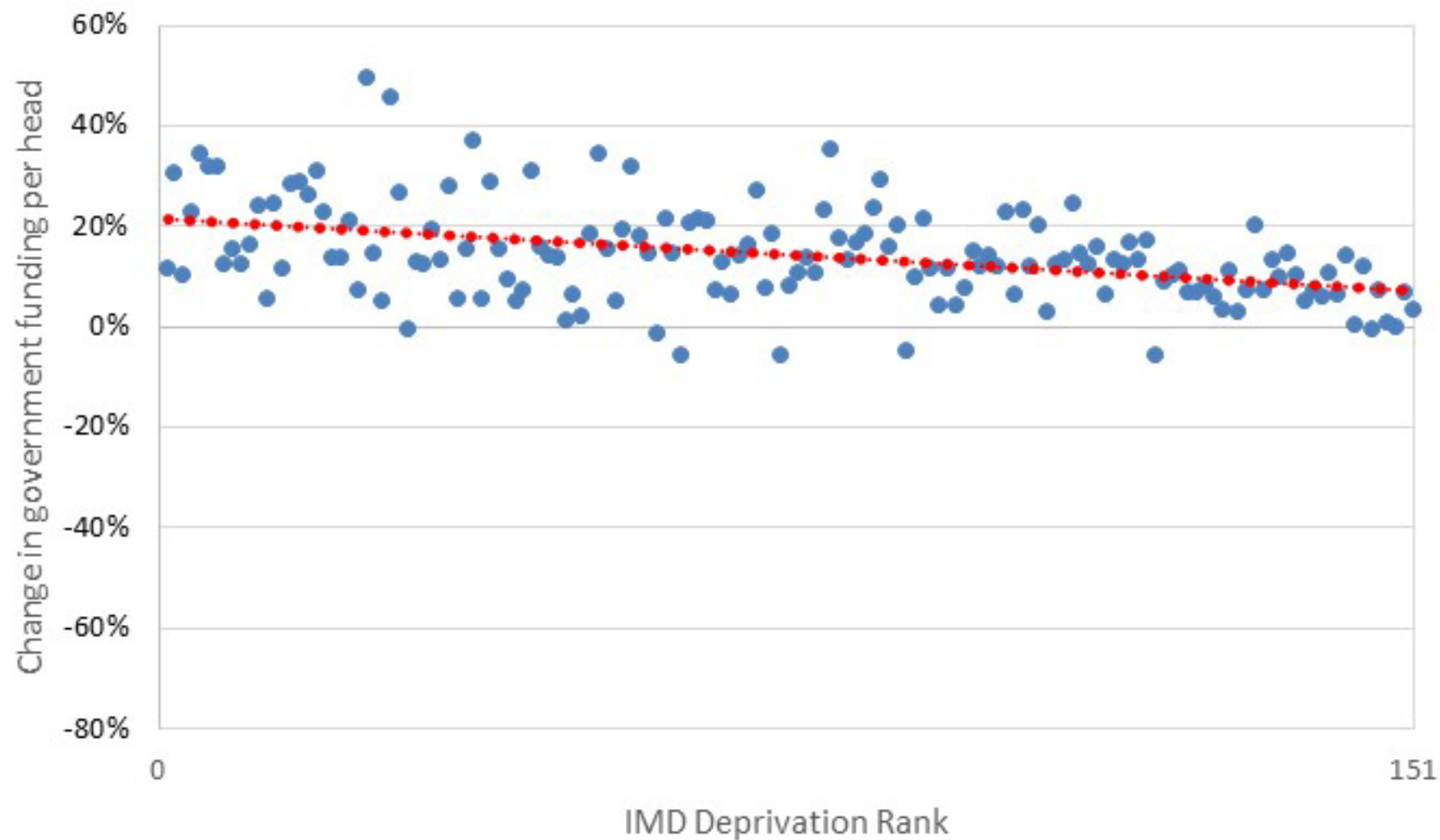
- Comparing CSP per head in 25/26 with 28/29.
- 28/29 shows a slightly more even distribution against line of best fit but much less so than upper tier.
- Much lower correlation between deprivation and funding for districts.
- Suspect inclusion on business rates gain also distorts any correlation, as will the new temporary accommodation RNF.



## CSP and Government Funding change by IMD ranking: Districts

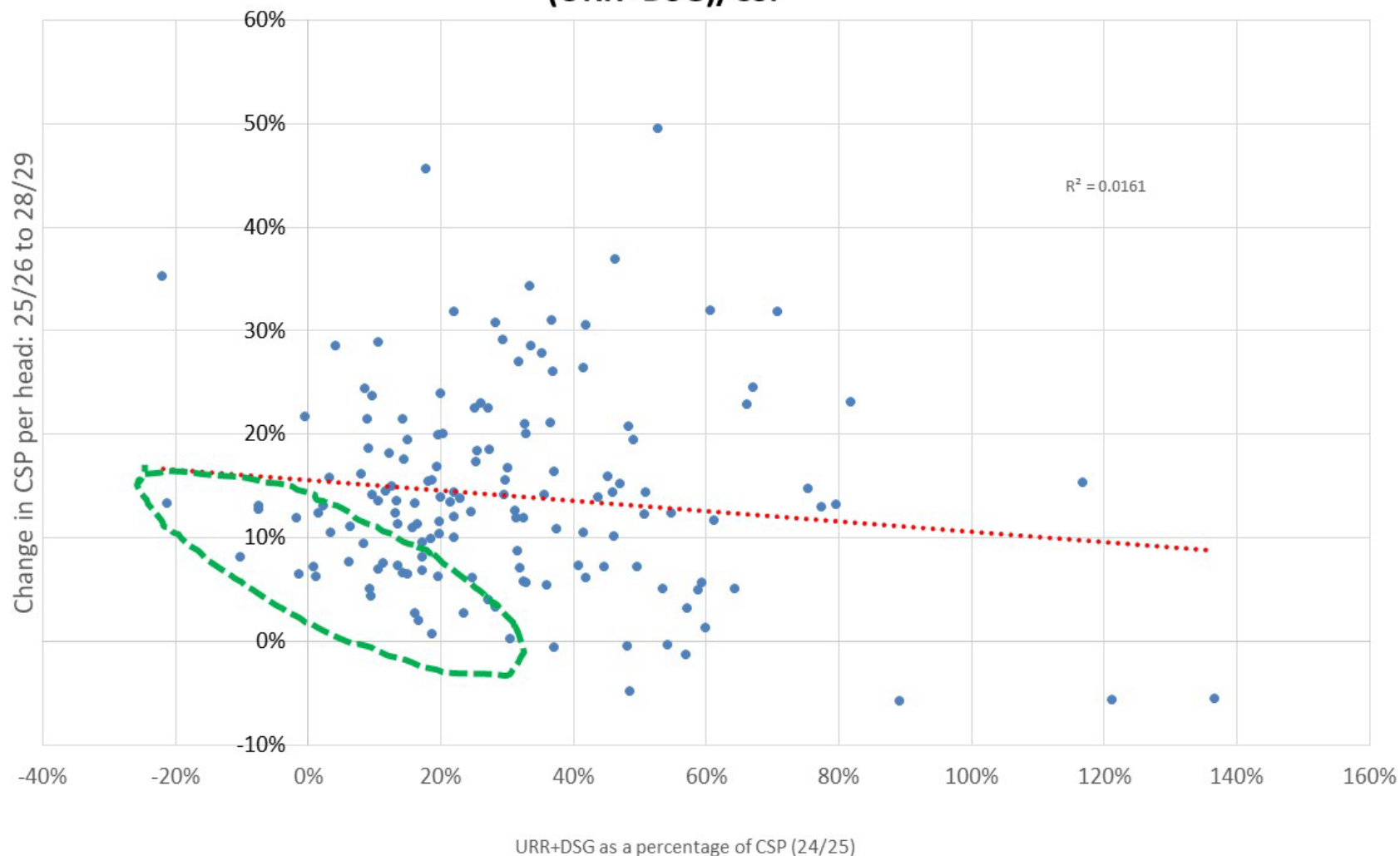
- Comparing CSP per head and government funding per head changes between 25/26 with 28/29 for districts.
- Very slight correlation between deprivation and IMD levels.
- Not that surprising given that district services are more focussed on all households (e.g. waste collection) and less on vulnerable groups.
- Suspect inclusion of homelessness as part of needs, inclusion of business rates gains and resources adjustment also distorts any correlation.

## Correlation between change in Core Spending Power per head and IMD Deprivation Rank



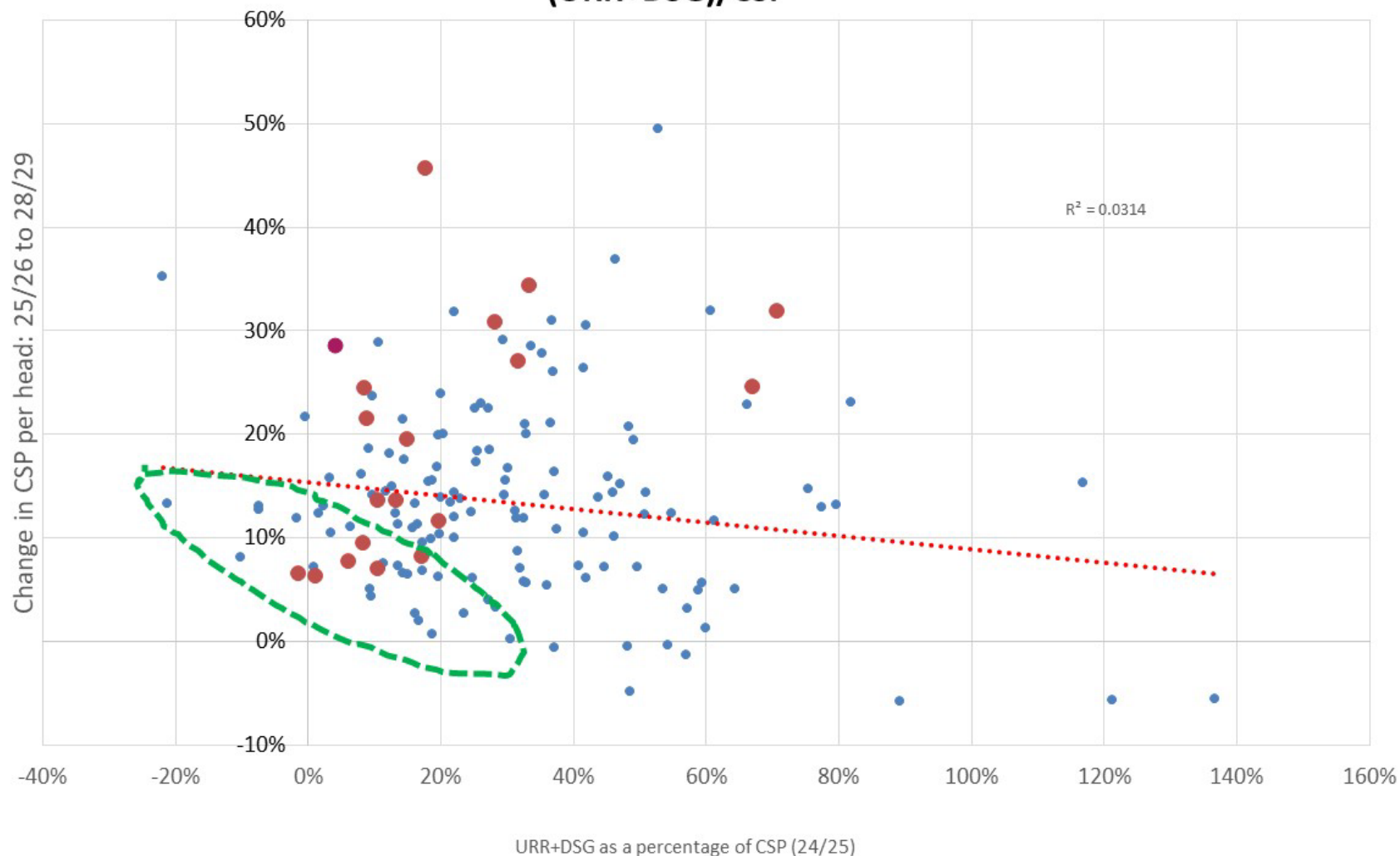
- Graph correlates change in CSP (y axis) with deprivation rank (rank of averages IMD2025).
- Reasonably positive correlation which shows that more deprived areas have received greater share of increased CSP.

### Correlation between change in Core Spending Power per head and (URR+DSG)/CSP



- Graph correlates change in CSP (y axis) with levels of URR with DSG added in (24/25 data).
- Have highlighted those with lower than average CSP increase and low levels of financial resilience.
- Prediction: Lots more EFS over the next three years
- Desperate need for more information on 'historic and accumulating' deficits.

### Correlation between change in Core Spending Power per head and (URR+DSG)/CSP



- EFS (2024/25) authorities marked in red.
- A number will receive reasonably large increases in CSP.
- But significant number won't and I would worry for the sustainability of such authorities (and many other non-EFS) authorities without further support.

# Do we have Fair Funding? A personal view

- Government has herculean task to deliver fair funding after 13 years without a full needs and resources reset.
- They have over last year's settlement and this three year provisional settlement overseen massive redistribution.
- Even so, there is a cliff edge in 2028/29.
- Some will feel that the allocations are very unfair – rural authorities, Inner London, maybe some Mets, those stranded on very low band D etc.
- Lots of the mechanisms feel unfair to me – the Recovery Grant, the inclusion of historic business rates gains into resources but ...
- If levels of government funding per head are a proxy for fairness then I can see an argument that the redistributions are **fairer**.

# Is everything more stable!!!!? A personal view

- Lateness of the settlement – day before end of parliamentary period.
- Complexity and changes in the figures – really hard to reconcile with previous years – changes in terminology, rolling in of grants, business rates reset – has been difficult to understand.
- So must be really difficult to brief member and write budget reports.
- No specificity around support for SEND deficits despite this being promised.
- EFS application deadline passed before settlement announced.
  
- I suspect there will be multiple authorities that are significantly vulnerable whose sustainability will be challenged further following this settlement.
- Predictions of up to 100 EFS authorities.
- So no sector-wide stability achieved yet.

# Next steps

- More analysis to do – I want to reconcile last year's final settlement figures to this year's restated figures for 2024/25.
- LGi members will get a settlement analysis next week which allows you to pick out your authority on all of these analyses.
- Working with Mark Catlow to devise a 'ready reckoner' to show you how all the business rates figures reconcile to the CSP figures, tracing reliefs, BFLs etc. so that you have confidence in your budget lines, NNDR1 for the 2026/27 budget.
- Another seminar in the new year.

# Thanks for listening

- Follow us on LinkedIn
- Adrian Jenkins [Adrian Jenkins | LinkedIn](#)
- Dan Bates [Dan Bates | LinkedIn](#)
- Mark Catlow [Mark Catlow | LinkedIn](#)

[www.lgfin.co.uk](http://www.lgfin.co.uk)

[www.pixelfinancial.co.uk](http://www.pixelfinancial.co.uk)

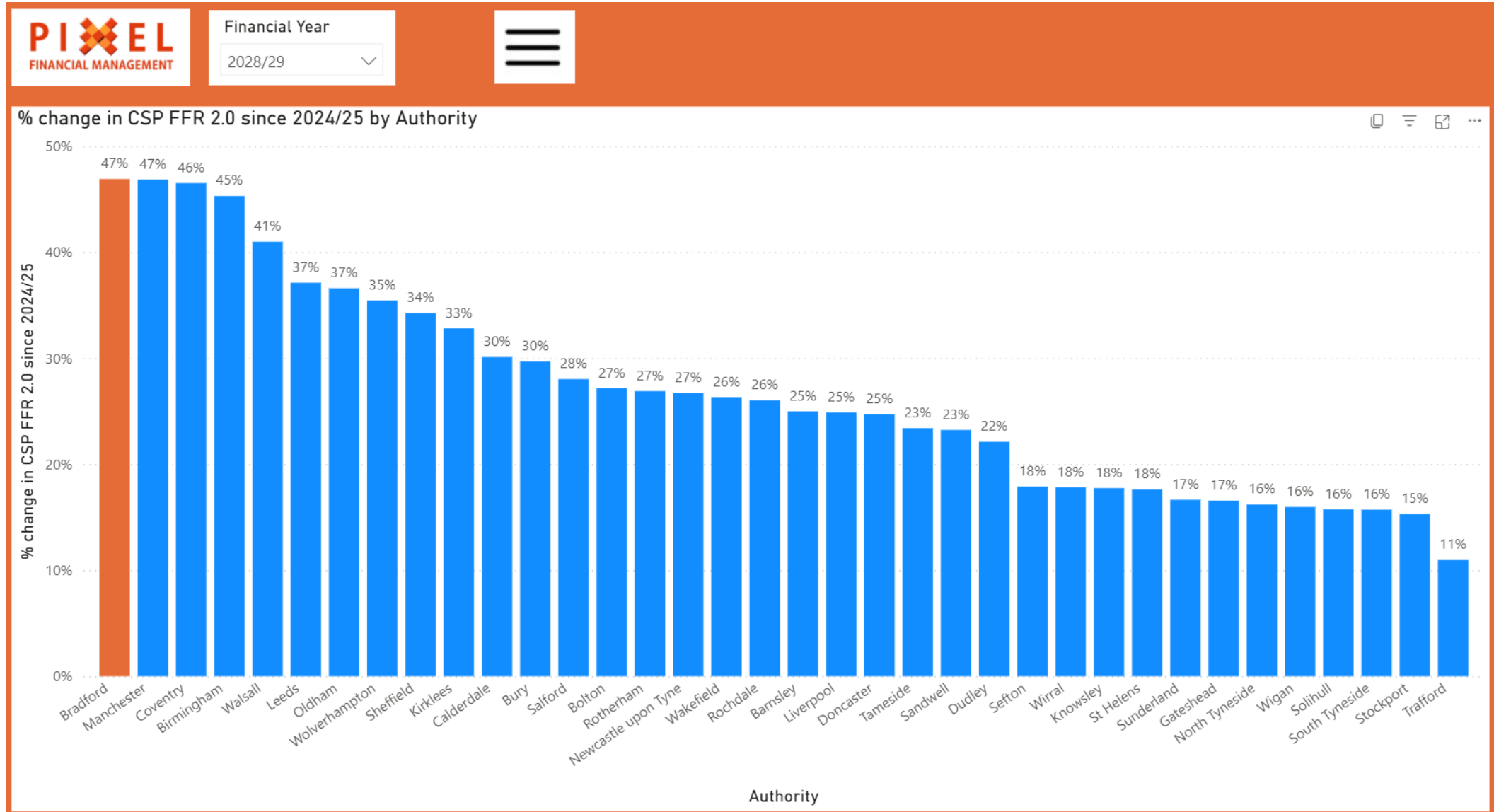


Financial Benchmarking Update Webinar 19 Dec 2025

# Pixel Financial Benchmarking Service – Core Spending Power Updates and improvements

- Incorporation of Core Spending Power 2026-27 to 2028-29 data into the Power BI model
- Enables dynamic comparisons of Core Spending Power over time (£ms)
- Core Spending Power per head comparators
- Growth comparators (£s and %)
- Core Spending Power per head vs Index of Multiple Deprivation over time.
- Comparisons for all the above by LA class, region, stat neighbours or bespoke groupings
- Weighted and Unweighted relative needs formula

# Core Spending Power % growth between 2024-25 and 2028-29 – Bradford case study



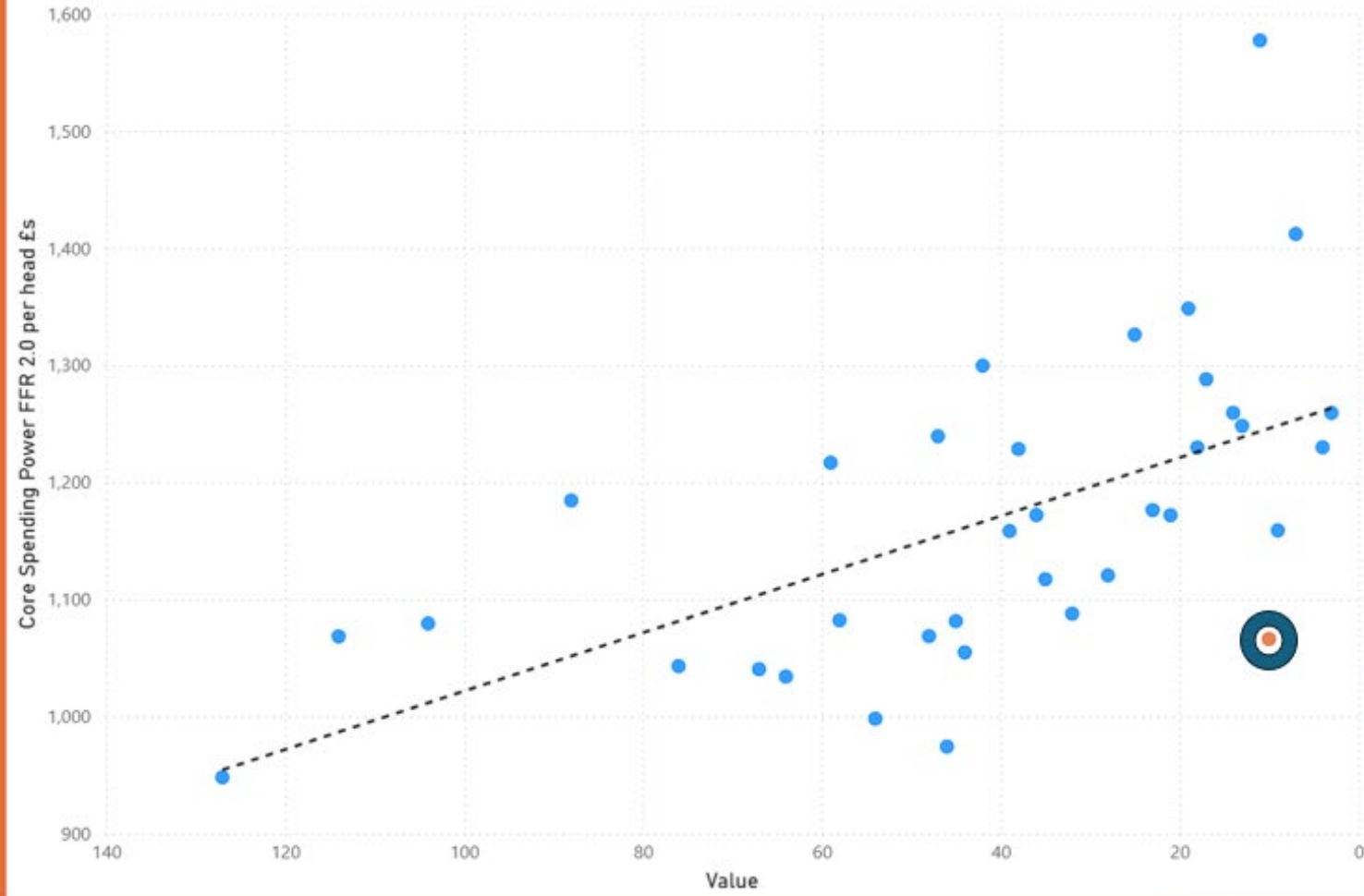
# Core Spending Power per head vs IMD rank of avg score – 2024-25



Authority	CSP FFR 2.0 per head rank	IMD - Rank of avg score	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s
St Helens	13	38	1,228.45
Sefton	14	59	1,216.75
North Tyneside	15	88	1,184.56
Bolton	16	23	1,176.24
Tameside	17	36	1,172.03
Walsall	18	21	1,171.92
Oldham	19	9	1,158.92
Newcastle upon Tyne	20	39	1,158.41
Doncaster	21	28	1,120.51
Rotherham	22	35	1,117.17
Barnsley	23	32	1,087.85
Wigan	24	58	1,082.31
Sheffield	25	45	1,081.45
Stockport	26	104	1,079.45
Wakefield	27	48	1,068.67
Solihull	28	114	1,068.35
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,066.25</b>
Calderdale	30	44	1,054.72
Dudley	31	76	1,043.00
Bury	32	67	1,040.41
Leeds	33	64	1,034.16
Kirklees	34	54	998.16
Coventry	35	46	974.35
Trafford	36	127	948.16

Core Spending Power per head and IMD Rank of Average score by Authority

2025 Upper



Least deprived

2024/25

2025/26

2026/27

2027/28

2028/29

Most deprived

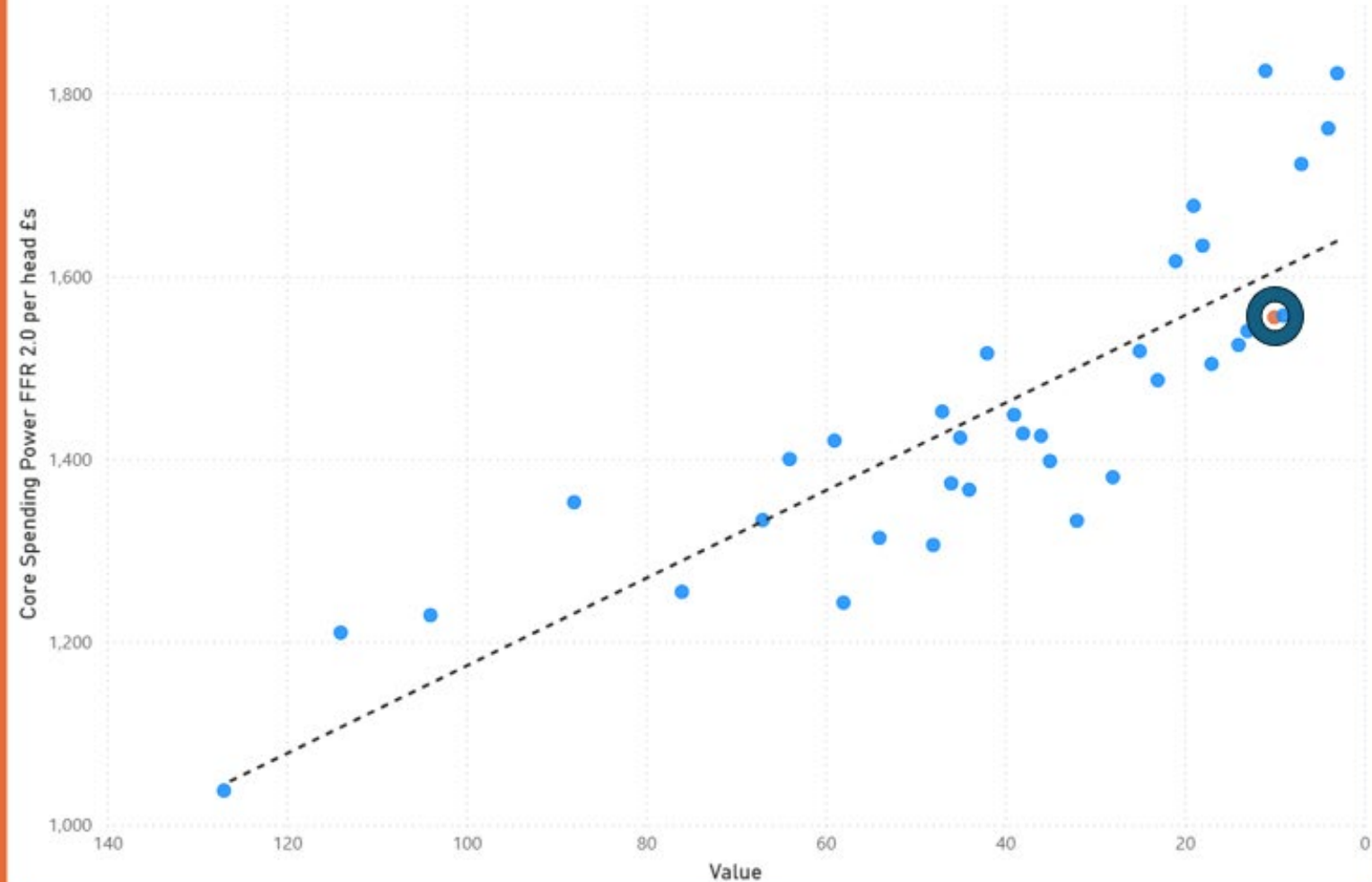
# Core Spending Power per head vs IMD rank of avg score – 2028-29



Authority	CSP FFR 2.0 per head rank	IMD - Rank of avg score	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s
Knowsley	1	11	1,825.08
Manchester	2	3	1,822.39
Birmingham	3	4	1,762.20
Liverpool	4	7	1,723.22
Salford	5	19	1,677.33
Wolverhampton	6	18	1,633.88
Walsall	7	21	1,616.84
Oldham	8	9	1,557.23
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,555.49</b>
Rochdale	10	13	1,540.41
Sandwell	11	14	1,525.14
South Tyneside	12	25	1,518.43
Gateshead	13	42	1,516.04
Sunderland	14	17	1,504.32
Bolton	15	23	1,486.58
Wirral	16	47	1,452.16
Newcastle upon Tyne	17	39	1,448.58
St Helens	18	38	1,428.23
Tameside	19	36	1,425.61
Sheffield	20	45	1,423.42
Sefton	21	59	1,420.36
Leeds	22	64	1,400.20
Rotherham	23	35	1,398.01
Doncaster	24	28	1,380.35

Core Spending Power per head and IMD Rank of Average score by Authority

2025 Upper



Least deprived

2024/25

2025/26

2026/27

2027/28

2028/29

Most deprived

# Core Spending power per head 2024-25



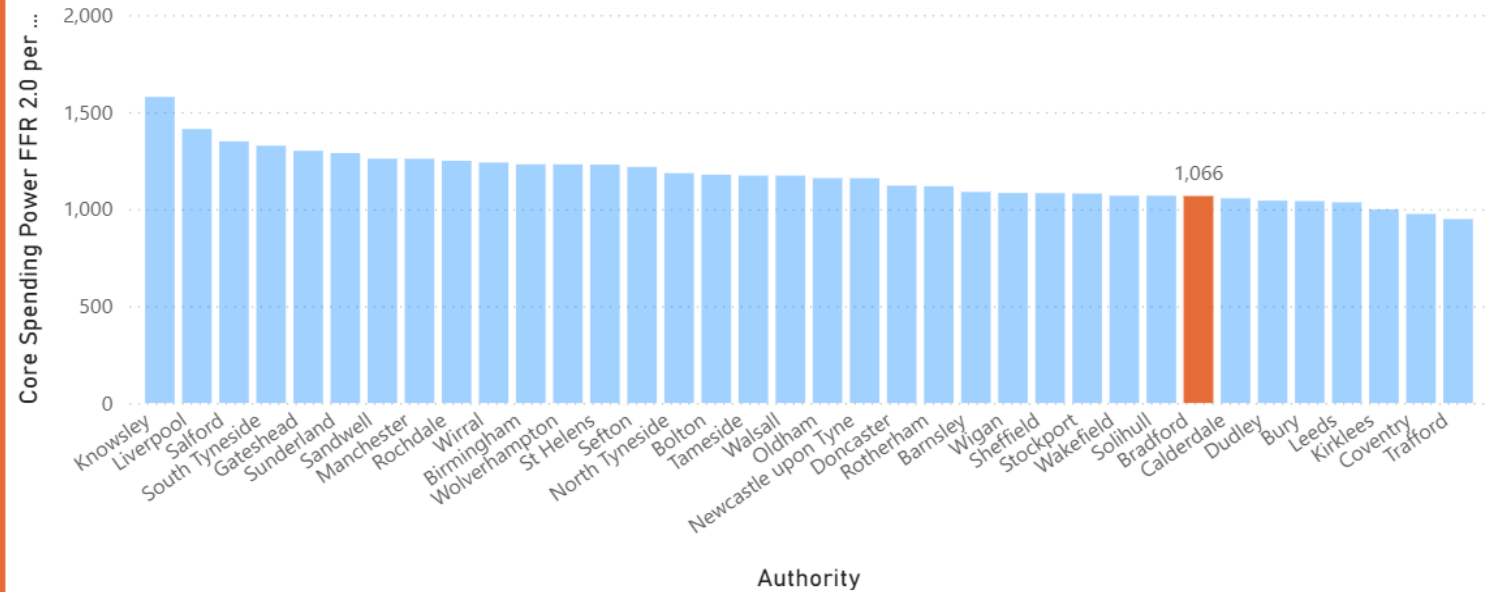
Financial Year

2024/25



Authority	Total CSP FFR 2.0 £ms	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s	CSP FFR 2.0 per head rank	IMD Rank of Average Score
Tameside	271.4	1,172.03	17	36
Walsall	345.5	1,171.92	18	21
Oldham	282.2	1,158.92	19	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	353.1	1,158.41	20	39
Doncaster	357.6	1,120.51	21	28
Rotherham	303.8	1,117.17	22	35
Barnsley	277.2	1,087.85	23	32
Wigan	360.6	1,082.31	24	58
Sheffield	649.4	1,081.45	25	45
Stockport	322.4	1,079.45	26	104
Wakefield	392.6	1,068.67	27	48
Solihull	238.4	1,068.35	28	114
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>582.5</b>	<b>1,066.25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>
Calderdale	224.0	1,054.72	30	44
Dudley	343.4	1,043.00	31	76
Bury	202.7	1,040.41	32	67
Leeds	831.7	1,034.16	33	64
Kirklees	445.8	998.16	34	54
Coventry	386.4	974.35	35	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,317.1</b>	<b>1,158.91</b>		

Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s by Authority



CSP FFR 2.0 Funding Source	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s	% of CSP FFR 2.0 per head from funding source
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	451.33	42.3%
Legacy Business Rates	344.37	32.3%
Legacy Grant Funding	208.63	19.6%
Local Authority Better Care Grant	42.81	4.0%
Families First Partnership (within Children, Families)	7.34	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,066.25</b>	<b>100.0%</b>


CSP FFR 2.0 £s Per Head

Authority	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Bradford	1,066.25	1,190.14	1,322.97	1,439.69	1,555.49

CSP FFR 2.0 Per Head Rank in Selection


Authority	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Bradford	29	23	20	14	9

# Core Spending power per head 2028-29



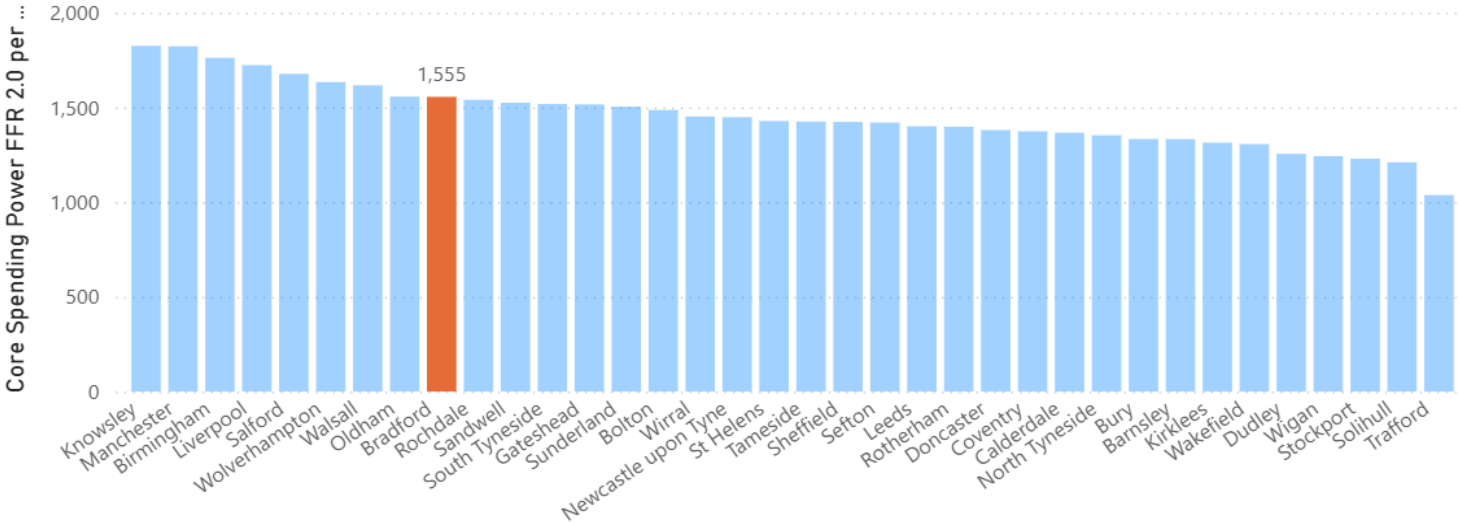
Financial Year

2028/29 ▼



Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s by Authority

Authority	Total CSP FFR 2.0 £ms	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s	CSP FFR 2.0 per head rank	IMD Rank of Average Score
Knowsley	286.0	1,825.08	1	11
Manchester	1,038.1	1,822.39	2	3
Birmingham	2,090.0	1,762.20	3	4
Liverpool	905.3	1,723.22	4	7
Salford	467.3	1,677.33	5	19
Wolverhampton	453.2	1,633.88	6	18
Walsall	487.1	1,616.84	7	21
Oldham	385.4	1,557.23	8	9
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>855.7</b>	<b>1,555.49</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Rochdale	360.8	1,540.41	10	13
Sandwell	526.1	1,525.14	11	14
South Tyneside	235.3	1,518.43	12	25
Gateshead	307.1	1,516.04	13	42
Sunderland	416.9	1,504.32	14	17
Bolton	433.1	1,486.58	15	23
Wirral	477.4	1,452.16	16	47
Newcastle upon Tyne	447.5	1,448.58	17	39
St Helens	266.4	1,428.23	18	38
Tameside	334.9	1,425.61	19	36
Total	18,607.6	1,483.60		



Authority

CSP FFR 2.0 Funding Source	Core Spending Power FFR 2.0 per head £s	% of CSP FFR 2.0 per head from funding source
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	599.44	38.5%
Revenue Support Grant	470.81	30.3%
Baseline Funding Level	421.54	27.1%
Recovery Grant	30.61	2.0%
Families First Partnership (within Children, Families and Youth Grant)	21.46	1.4%
Total	1,555.49	100.0%

**CSP FFR 2.0 £s Per Head**

Authority	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Bradford	1,066.25	1,190.14	1,322.97	1,439.69	1,555.49

**CSP FFR 2.0 Per Head Rank in Selection**

Authority	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Bradford	29	23	20	14	9

# Other recent improvements

- Addition of 2024-25 Revenue Outturn by LA data into the benchmark cost per head comparators
- Addition of Ofsted inspection data and Children Looked After data into Children's Social Care cost per head comparators
- Addition of Care Quality Commission inspection data into Adult Social Care cost per head comparators
- Improvement to Council Tax report to include Council Tax per head comparisons and LCTS recipient data

# Other recent improvements

- New Borrowing and Investments report including time series and cost per head comparators
- New Reserves report including time series and reserves per head comparators
- Update of ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates data to all reports
- Update of 2025-26 projections into Dedicated Schools Grant balances comparator report
- Update of 2025-26 post levy retained rates data into NNDR comparator report

Any questions?

Contact: [Andrew.Cross@localgovbi.com](mailto:Andrew.Cross@localgovbi.com)

Or phone 07855 030153 for subscription details