

Accounts Commission: Local Government in Scotland Challenges and Performance 2019

March 2019

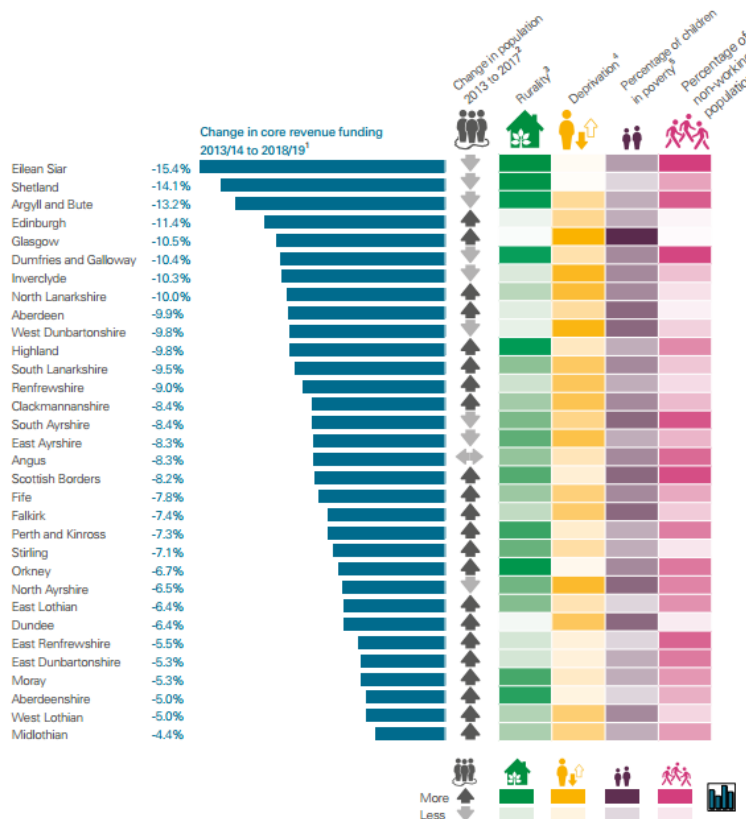
Audit Scotland has published their [report](#) into local government in Scotland giving an overview of the challenges local authorities face. As ever with these reports the language is very much that of an accountant but it is clear that local government is facing a range of difficulties.

This graphic gives a great overview of the financial challenges local authorities face. (A larger version is on page 19 of the report)

Exhibit 4

Changes to council core revenue funding in real terms between 2013/14 and 2018/19, illustrated with socio-demographic factors that can impact on service demand and costs

Demographic change, rurality and deprivation will all have implications for council services. The majority of core revenue funding is allocated based on population factors so funding reductions largely follow population change.



The most significant is budget cuts alongside increased demands. Other challenges include Brexit, the increasing variability of the Scottish budget, the outcomes of the local governance review, the Community Empowerment Act consequences and policy changes including:

- Fairer Scotland Act
- Early learning and childcare expansion
- Welfare reform
- Local outcome improvement plans
- National Performance Framework
- Health and social care integration
- Child Poverty Act

There is also a small paragraph on equal pay in Glasgow. The report suggests councils are responding well to the challenges but that means that they are cutting jobs and services to match available funding rather than everything is great. The report includes lots of information that will be useful for branches when planning, campaigning or bargaining in the upcoming year.

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2819, or email k.sillars@unison.co.uk

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