

Local Government Facts and Figures 2013-2020

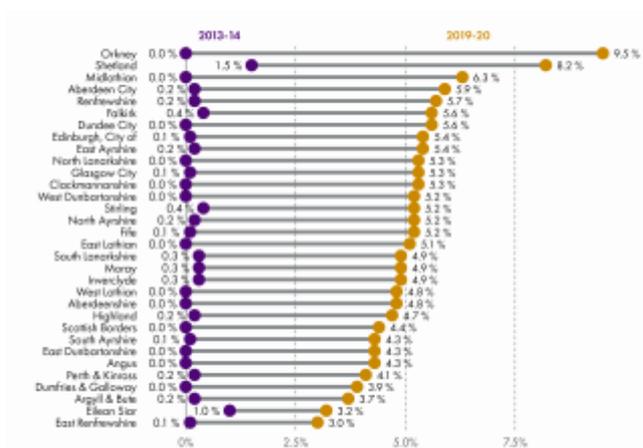
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The Scottish Parliament Information Service (SPICe) has published a new [briefing](#) on local government finance between 2013/14 and 2019/20. As the paper states local government finance has become increasingly complex and following changes overtime is challenging because of the many changes made to powers and financing.

Between 2013/14 and 2018/19 the real terms local government revenue settlement decreased by 7.5% (-£810m). When Scottish government revenue budget reduced by less: - 2.8% (-£870.4m) in the (Including non domestic rates). Between 2018/19 and 2019/20 the revenue settlement went up by 1% while the government’s revenue budget increased by 0.9%.

There has been much discussion about the impact of specific revenue funding on councils’ ability to fund other services and what constitutes ring-fencing. COSLA argues that 58% of the revenue budget is used to fund specific Scottish government policies. The SPICe briefing graph (page 10) gives and idea of the growth of “officially” ring-fenced funding as a proportion of total revenue.

Figure 4 - Ring-fenced funds as a proportion of Total Revenue settlement, 2013-14 and 2019-20



Local Government Finance Circular 2013/14 Scottish Government, 2013⁸, Annex B, Columns 7 and 13, and Local Government Finance Circular 2019/20 Scottish Government, 2019⁹, Annex B, Columns 7 and 12.

Funding per head

Looking at funding per head of the population is also a useful way to understand cuts to local government budgets. The figure for Scotland is a cut of £160 per head with the biggest cuts on mainland Scotland being Glasgow with a cut of £270 per head and Eilan Siar with a cut of £572 is the highest in Scotland as a whole.

