

# Big Society

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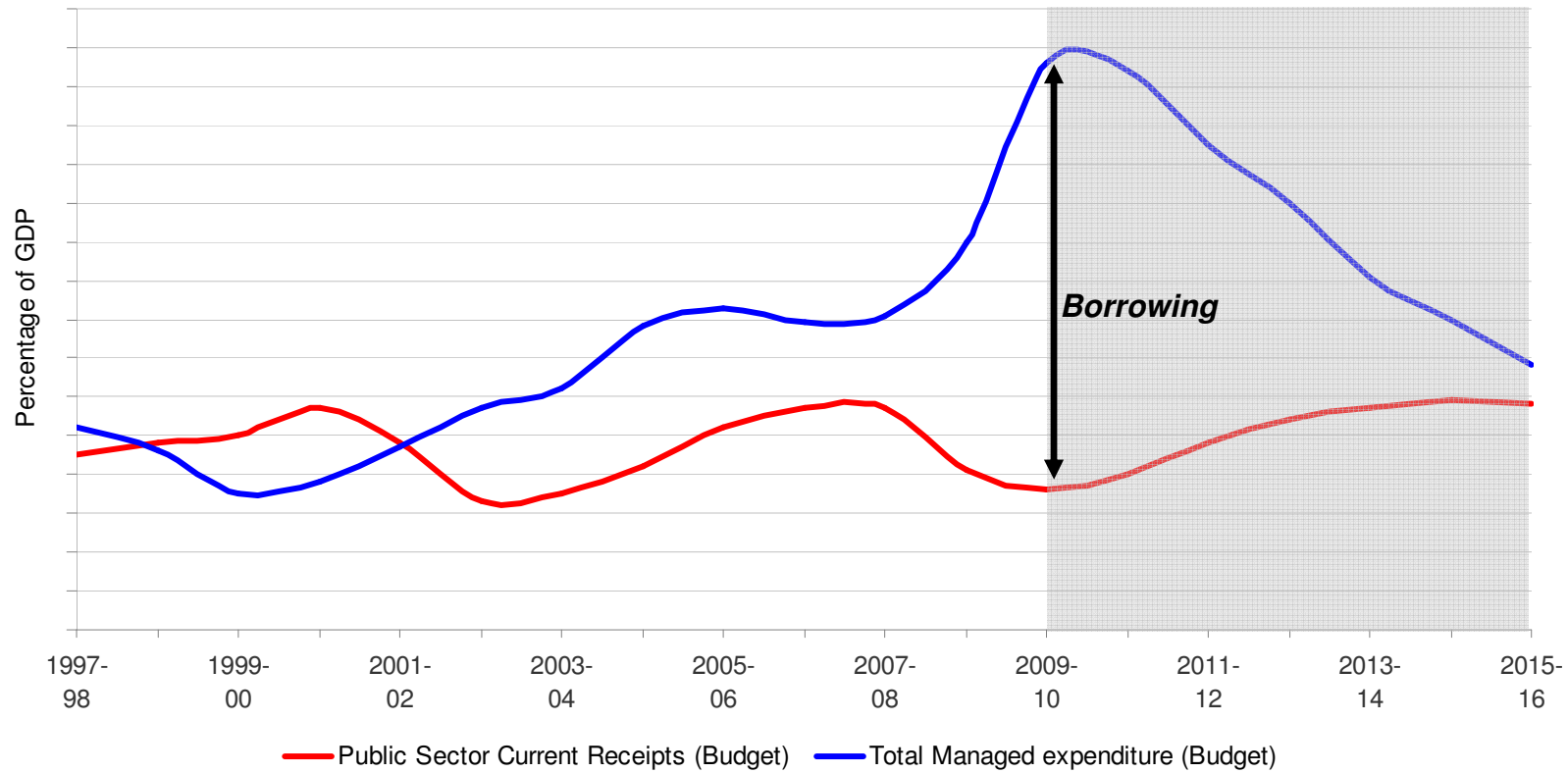
## The CSR confirmed what we already knew

*Dear Chief Secretary,  
I'm afraid there is no  
money.*

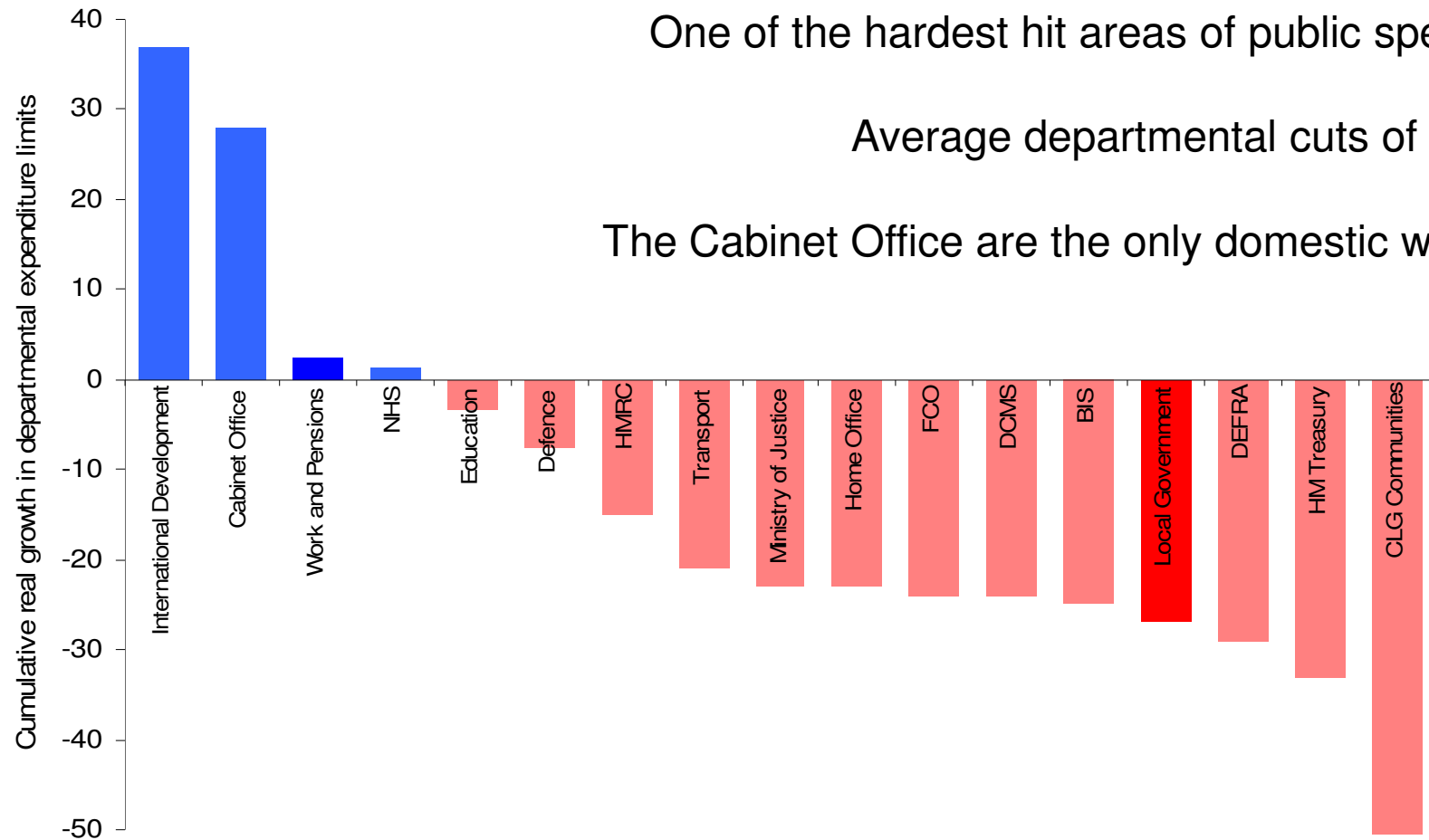
*Kind regards and good  
luck!*

*Liam Byrne MP*

# The impact on the public finances



# The impact on local services



## National initiatives

**Cabinet Office gained £470 million to support community groups**



**These initiatives compliment wider reforms in school provision, personal care services and the national planning framework**

## A new form of localism



**Sir Humphrey:** Bernard, if the right people don't have power, do you know what happens? The wrong people get it: politicians, councillors, *ordinary voters!*

**Bernard:** But aren't they supposed to, in a democracy?

**Sir Humphrey:** This is a *British* democracy, Bernard!



Empowering  
individuals and  
communities to  
address local  
issues

Promoting the VCS  
and social  
entrepreneurs in  
tackling social  
problems

Creating self-  
sustaining modes  
of service delivery

Reducing the size  
and influence of the  
state

## The approach carries risks

Irreversible damage to public service infrastructure

Postcode lotteries vs managed difference

The end of national standards and universal provision



## The impact at local level

**Transforming services and assets** – changing the way local public services are delivered, with an emphasis on increasing the role of individuals, families, community groups and the voluntary sector;

**Building social capital and capacity in civil society** – developing the capacity and readiness of individuals, families, neighbourhoods, interest groups, community groups and the voluntary sector to tackle social issues and deliver public services; and

**Empowering communities** – giving individuals and communities greater influence over local decision-making and opening service providers to greater public scrutiny.



## Big Society in Essex

*“[The Big Society launch] is the start of a deep and serious reform agenda to take power away from politicians and give it to people.”*

*“We know that the best ideas come from the ground up, not the top down. We know that when you give people and communities more power over their lives, more power to come together and work together to make life better – great things happen.”*

David Cameron, 18th May 2010

*“Society is best served when power is decentralized and distributed throughout the state and society”*

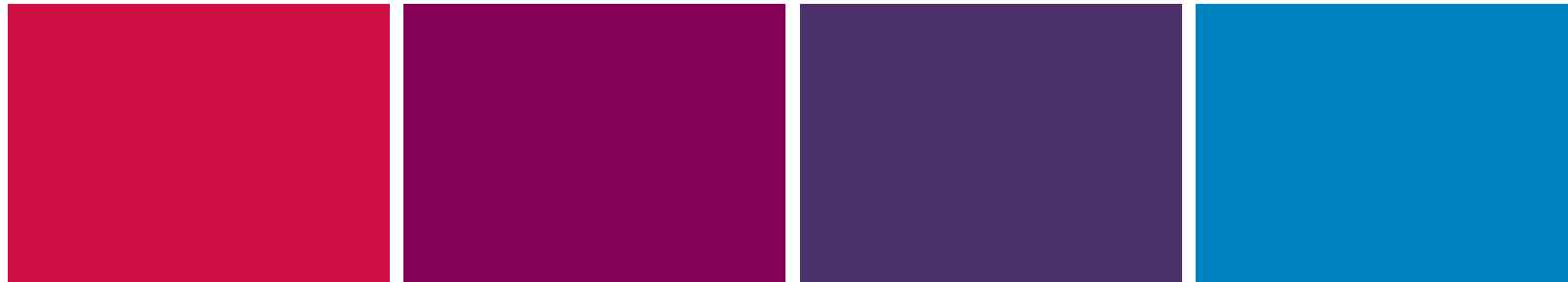
*“Citizens are more inclined to shape, rather than accept, the provision of public services...we need to liberate people’s potential, enabling citizens to exercise greater choice and responsibility in their lives.”*

Essex County Council, EssexWorks, 2007

## Our progress so far

Retain Enterprise Fund	Community initiatives Fund	Village Agents	Supporting Parish Councils
Projects to build social capital	Building capacity in local credit unions	VCS Endowment Funds	Exploring Social Finance
Community Archive Services	Volunteering in Library services	Transferring Assets to the Community	Putting Essex People First

## The next phase



## Essex must write its own script



EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Thank you

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Essex County Council