

Funding the Future

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Reform says that it will cut the spending of the local authorities it now controls.

I asked ChatGPT to provide a breakdown of English local authority spending. It provided this data for 2024/25 based on government-provided information:

 Detailed Breakdown of Local Authority Revenue Expenditure (2024–25)

Service Area	Budgeted Expenditure (£ billion)	Approximate Share (%)
Education Services	£41.7	33%
Adult Social Care	£24.5	19%
Children's Social Care	£14.1	11%
Police Services	£16.6	13%
Highways and Transport Services	£5.2	4%
Public Health	£4.0	3%
Housing Services (excluding HRA)	£2.5	2%
Cultural, Environmental, and Planning Services	£11.3	9%
Fire and Rescue Services	£2.9	2%
Central Services	£3.3	3%
Other Services	£1.1	1%
Total	£127.1	100%

Note: The figures are based on net current expenditure, which represents the cost of services after deducting income from sales, fees, and charges.

As this analysis then noted:

Key Insights

- * Education Services: This is the largest area of expenditure, accounting for 33% of the total. The budget includes significant allocations for early years, primary, and secondary education.
- * Adult and Children’s Social Care: Combined, these services represent 30% of the total expenditure. The budgets have increased to address rising demand and costs associated with care services.
- * Police Services: Allocated 13% of the budget, reflecting commitments to maintain public safety and law enforcement.
- * Highways and Transport Services: At 4%, this includes spending on road maintenance, public transport subsidies, and related infrastructure.
- * Public Health: Comprising 3% of the budget, this covers initiatives aimed at

improving health outcomes and preventing illness.

- * Housing Services: Accounting for 2%, this excludes the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and focuses on services like homelessness prevention and housing advice.

- * Cultural, Environmental, and Planning Services: Making up 9%, this encompasses libraries, leisure services, environmental health, and planning functions.

- * Fire and Rescue Services: Representing 2% of the budget, ensuring emergency response capabilities.

- * Central Services: At 3%, this includes corporate and democratic core services, such as finance, legal, and administrative support.

- * Other Services: The remaining 1% covers various other functions not categorized above.

This detailed allocation underscores the prioritization of education and social care services within local authority budgets, reflecting statutory obligations and community needs.

So, where will the cuts come from? Clearly, I cannot know. Nor does anyone else.

Reform has not said, as far as I can work out, that it will do anything but cut diversity and sustainability officers, of which there are tiny numbers.

In that case, what might be cut? Based on comments made by Farage, Tice and other leading Reform personnel, these seem likely to me:

- * Reduced support for migrants in any way possible, even if cruelty and absolute hardship result. Andrea Jenkins, the new mayor of Lincolnshire, says she wants migrants held in tents, not hotels.

- * Support for children with autism, ADHD and special educational needs. Farage made it clear recently that he thinks that all of these are overdiagnosed, and he clearly does not really believe that they exist. I expect plans for sweeping cuts.

- * Likewise, there will be plans for sweeping reductions in adult social care: the claim will be made that all those of working age should work and that depression, autism, ADHD and other conditions which are, at present, massive barriers to entry into the workplace for many will be ignored as reasons for supplying care.

- * Public health services will be cut. Farage hated everything to do with Covid. They will claim such services are not needed.

- * Libraries, parks and sports centres will close. The argument will be that the market should supply such things.

- * Support for the arts will disappear. Reform hates anything that they think intellectual. This will include the arts.

- * Diversity services will disappear.

- * Anything to do with sustainability will go.

Everything of value is, in other words, at risk.

But potholes and bin collections will survive, because they matter to occasional voters.

Reform will do what Trump is seeking to achieve in the USA: they will seek to destroy the organisations over which they have secured power. This is what anti-democrats desire.