

WOKINGHAM:

‘A VIEW FROM THE TOP?’

GREAT LANGBOROUGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 31 MAY 2017

ANDY COULDRICK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

...INCLUDING...

- My time in Wokingham
- The Council
- The Money
- The Challenges and the Opportunities
- The Future
- Questions?

WOKINGHAM...



- Vibrant
- Attractive
- Sense of community and activity
- Caring and generous
- The town and the borough: sense of place?
- CHANGING

MY TIME IN THE BOROUGH

2009: Director of Children's Services:

- Failing Children's Service
- No staff
- Poor relationships with partners
- Widely viewed as a 'basket case'
- Interesting Chief Executive



MY TIME IN THE BOROUGH

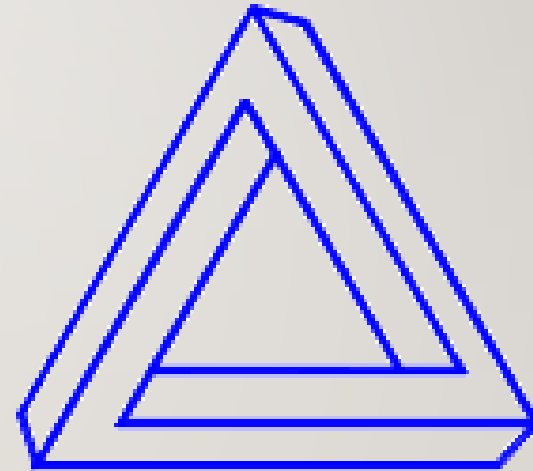
Late 2011: Chief Executive

- Waste: Blue Bags!
- Core Strategy and Appeals
- Not very joined-up
- Unhappy and unpopular Council
- Austerity bites!



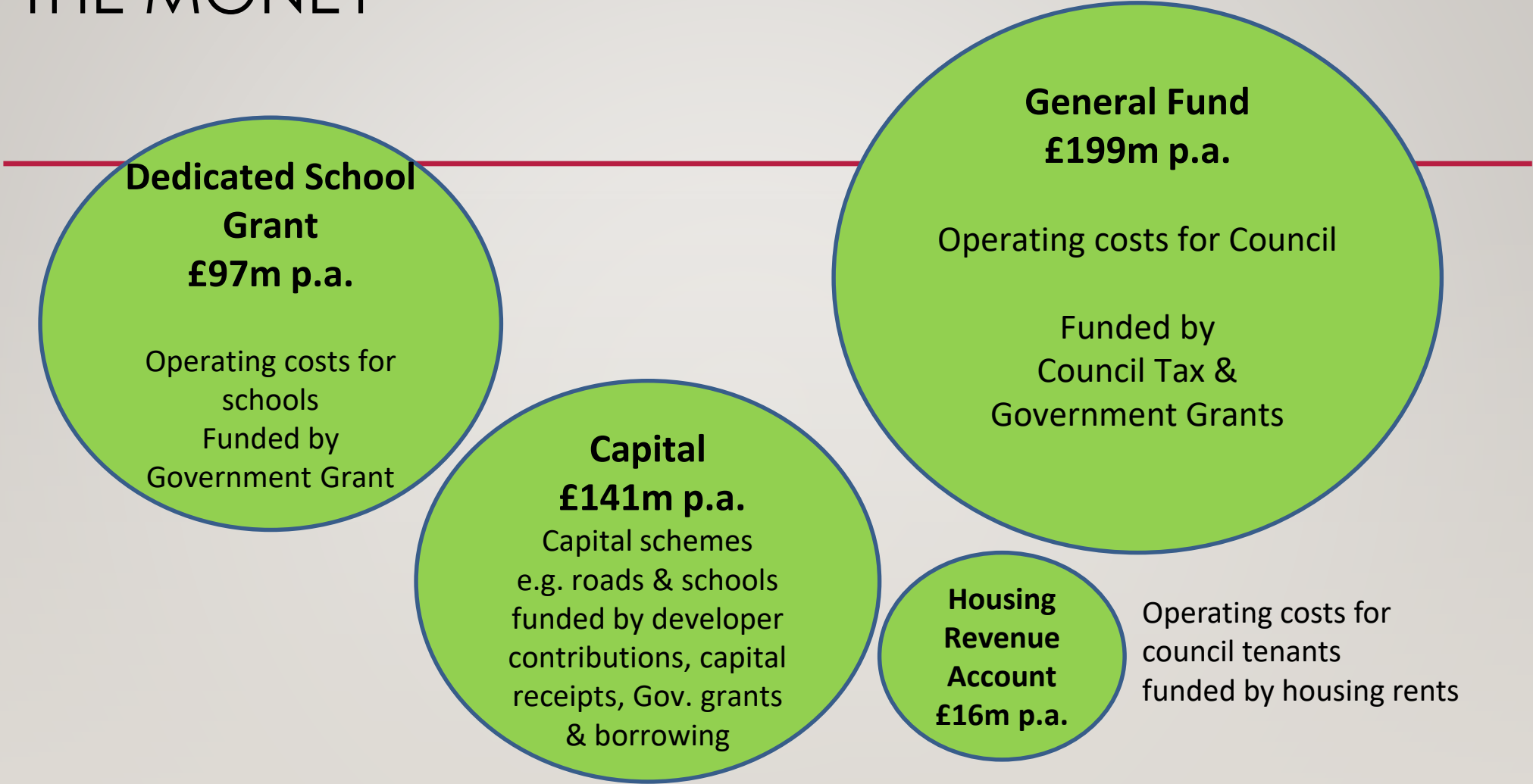
THE COUNCIL: POLITICS, PRIORITIES, POISON CHALICES

- New houses and planning
- Roads, traffic, congestion
- Delivering for our most vulnerable
- Value for Money
- Elected members: who'd be one?
- The shape of local government in Berkshire

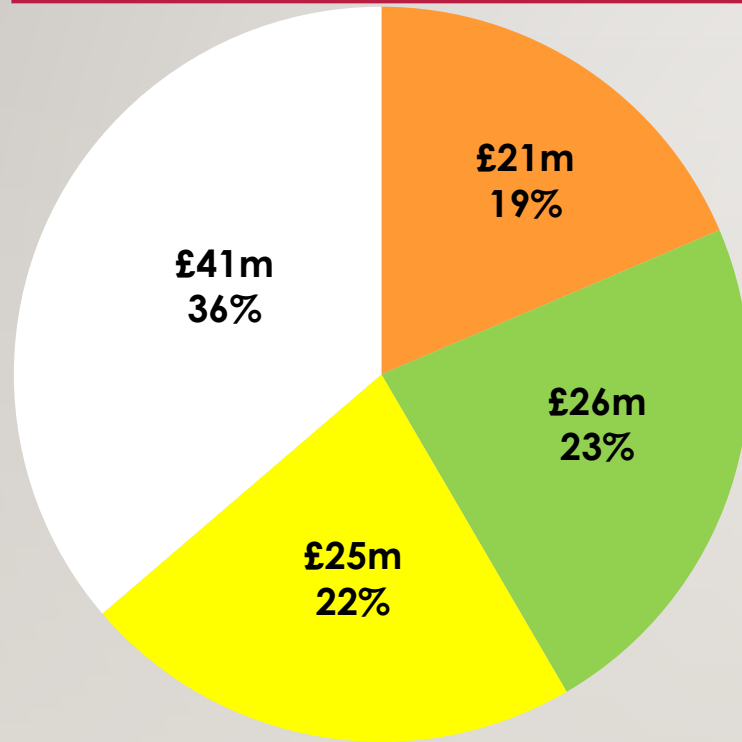


Impossible?

THE MONEY

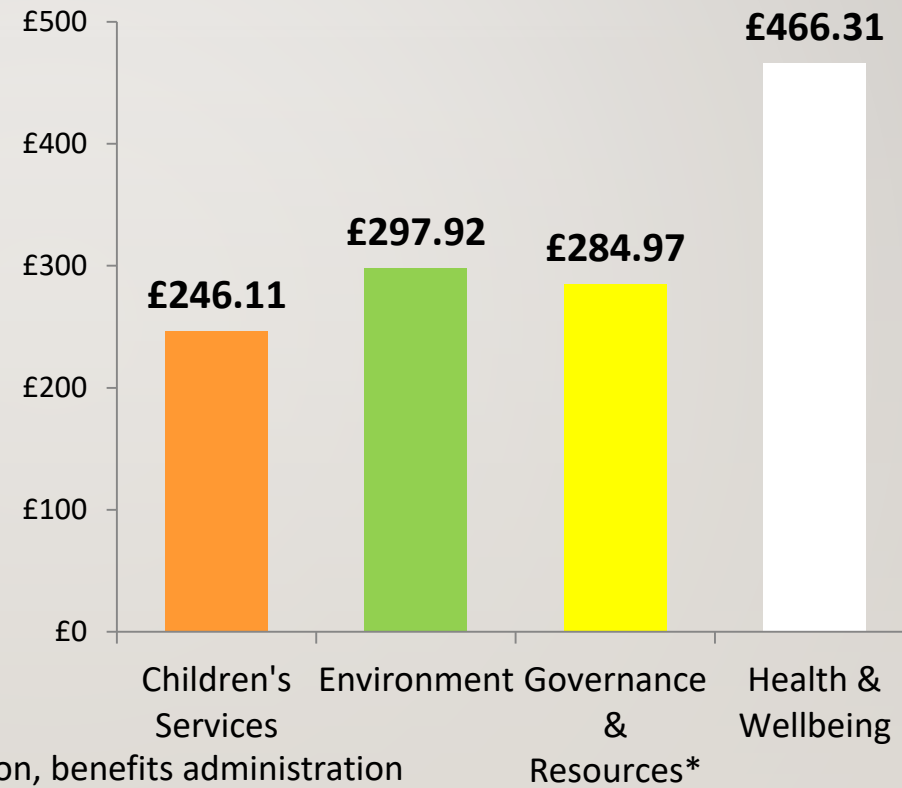


HOW YOUR MONEY GETS SPENT



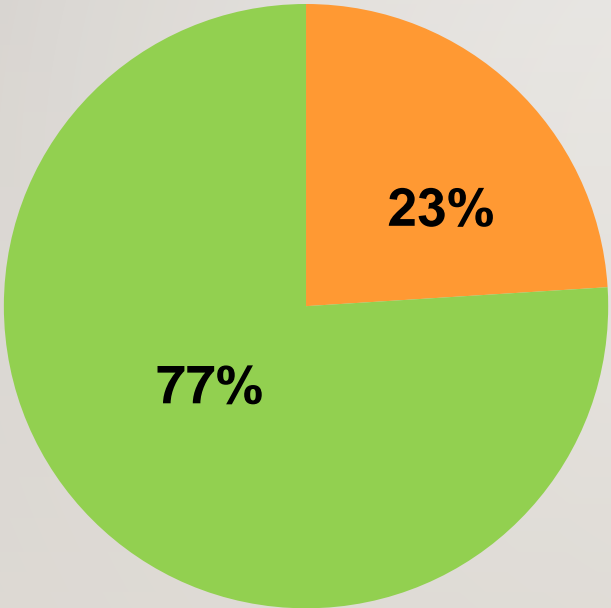
* Includes council tax collection, town centre regeneration, benefits administration

What this means for you Council Tax Band D £1,295.31

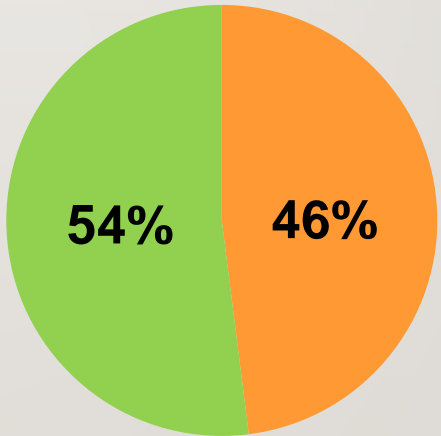


INCOME NET EXPENDITURE £112.9M

Wokingham



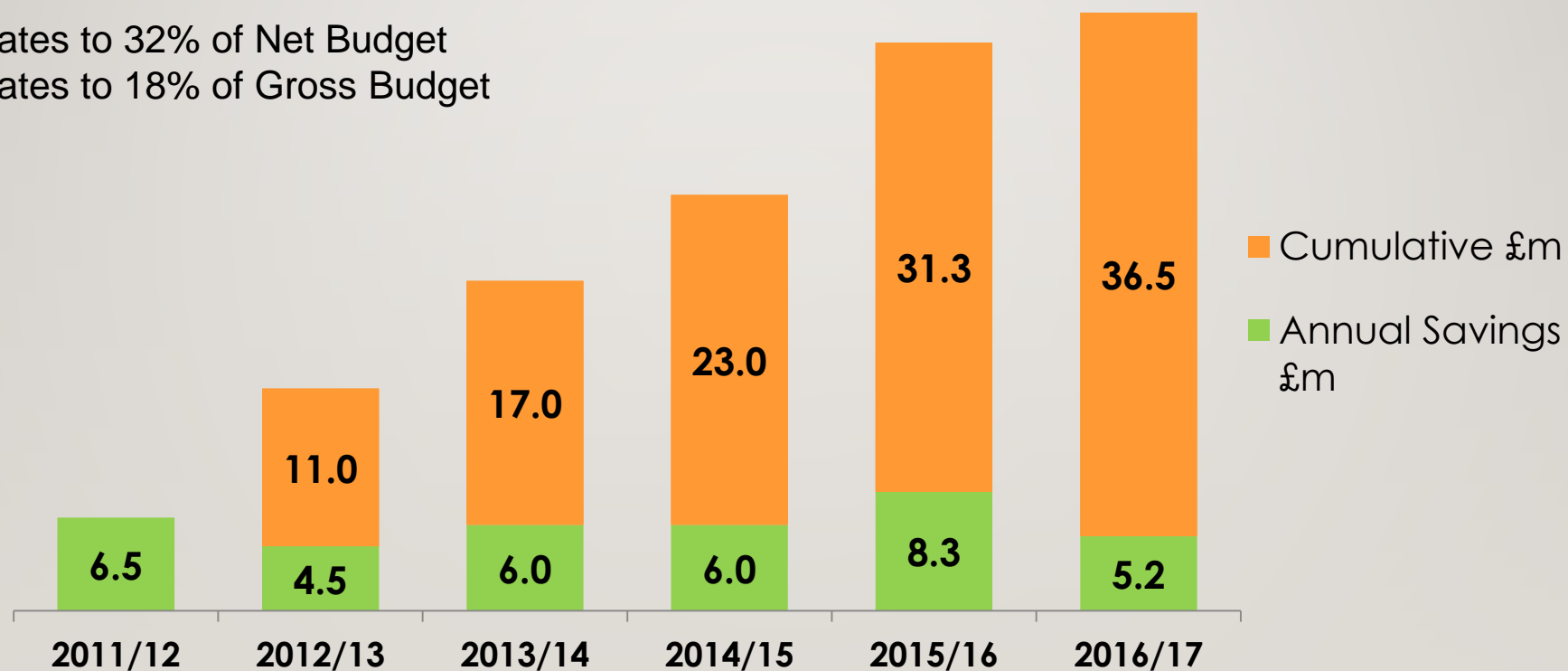
Average Unitary



- Government Support
- Council Tax

SAVINGS THE COUNCIL HAS HAD TO MAKE

£36.5m equates to 32% of Net Budget
£36.5m equates to 18% of Gross Budget



AND YET...

‘WBC has made great strides in a number of new areas, as well as also making progress in many services. Children’s services have continued to make good progress and have an improved rating of “requires improvement with some good features.” Health integration is working well and the council has a leading role in partnerships. The highways programme continues to deliver at scale. There has been significant growth in the private and affordable housing programme. The Town Centre regeneration scheme is making good progress.

The peer team congratulates Wokingham Borough Council on the progress it has made over the last year. ‘

- Independent Peer Challenge 2017

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- New housing: new Local Plan: not if, but where...
- Infrastructure
- Protecting vital services
- Negative Revenue Support Grant 2019/20
- New homes = new council tax!
- Major Change Programme: the 21 Century Council
- Income Generation: town centre; council-owned companies
- Delivering the Council's ambition

THE FUTURE...

- Sustainable (and unsustainable) growth
- New roads: still congestion
- A vibrant, popular town centre that pays for itself and more
- Rising demand for services: children, older people
- Local Government Reorganisation? By agreement? By imposition? By financial suffocation?



Wokingham Borough Council is well led and well run, by committed and able members and by talented and skilled officers

ANY QUESTIONS?

