

Preface

The continuing political uncertainty since the referendum vote to leave the EU has had important implications for local government. The future trajectory of government policy remains unclear, so the challenge of rendering local government services financially sustainable remains to be addressed. This challenge is becoming more difficult with the increasing pressures of health and social care and the lack of political consensus on a way forward. In 2018 the financial failure of Northamptonshire County Council made this issue headline news. An understanding of local government finance remains essential to understand these important policy debates. This understanding will be supplied by reading this publication.

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