

Municipal Budget 2013

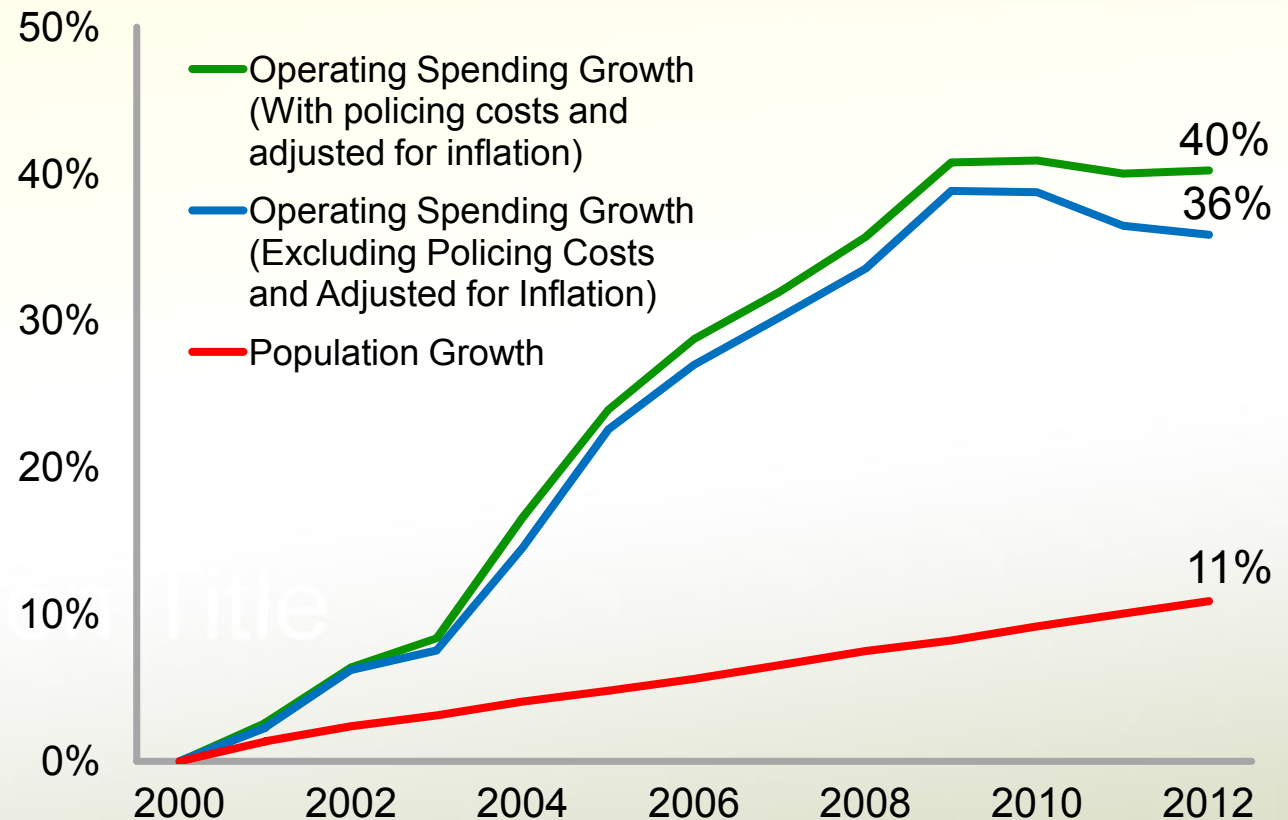
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Real operating spending is eating up more and more of Londoner's disposable income

Between 2000 and 2012:

- London's population grew by nearly 11%
- After accounting for inflation, the city's operational spending grew by 40%
- That's over three-and-a-half times faster than the population grew over this period
- And more than twice the rate of real disposable income per capita



Keep your 0% tax promise now, but a medium-term political blueprint is also needed

Political blueprint like “Advantage Canada” rather than the sales-type approach of “Advantage London”: to deal with unsustainable real operating spending growth and increase competitiveness. It should include:

- A clear stance about the direction of city tax policy / assessment growth
- System for an ongoing core services review that reverses the onus and takes pressure off last-minute budget meetings
- Red-tape reduction working group to consult widely and eliminate redundancies
- Serious consideration of the operating pressures caused by collective bargaining agreements
- Parameters for dealing with out-sourcing (e.g. Tech Services), a more fully open tendering process, and seeking out shared-service opportunities
- Clear statement about the debt, whether paying down / setting a specific target
- Setting up a Corporate Asset Management Review to alleviate pressures on operating budgets