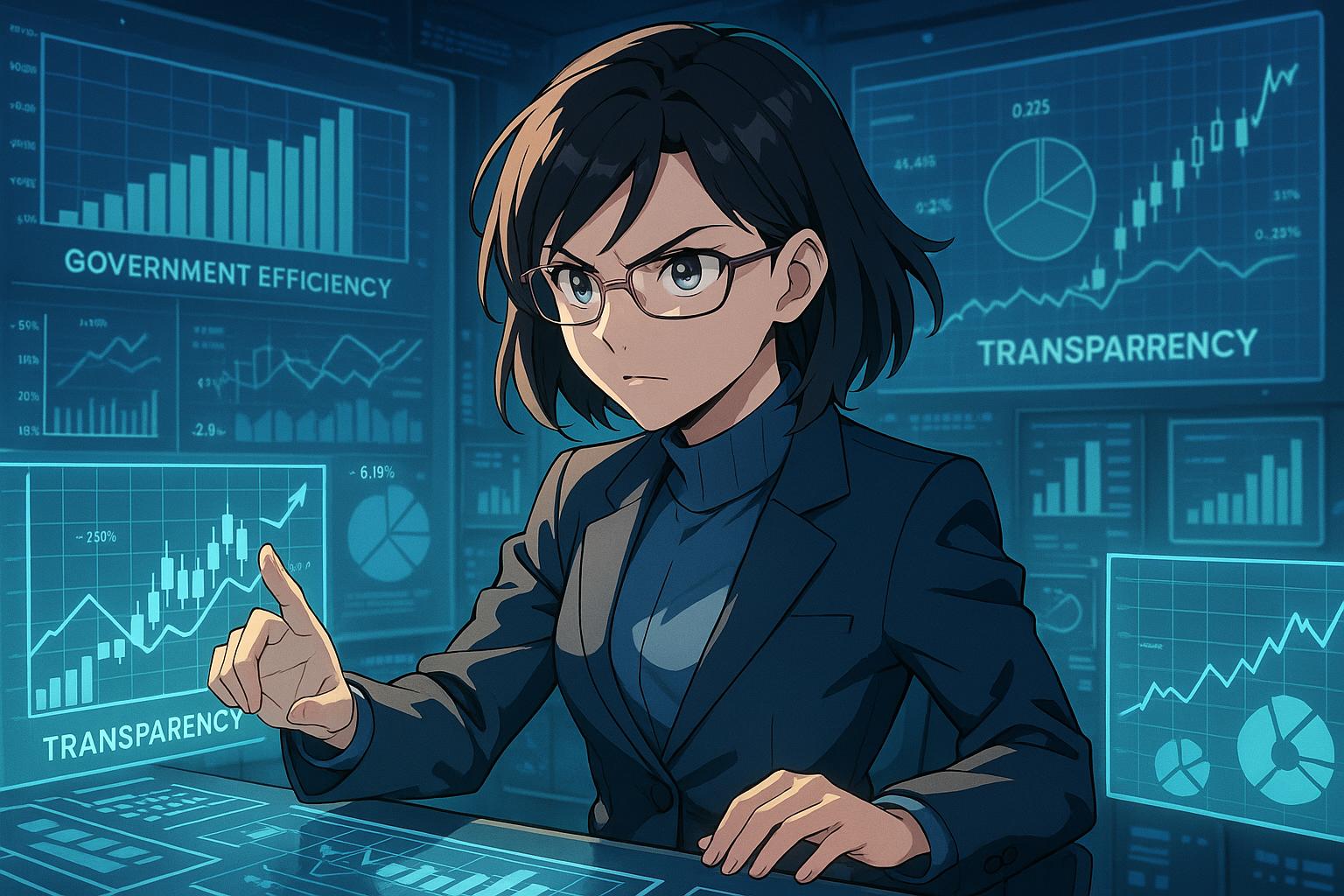
# Reform UK’s Doge unit launches tech-driven probe into council waste amid financial crisis



Reform UK's newly launched Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) unit aims to dig into the “wasteful spending” of local councils, starting with Kent County Council. This initiative, following their recent electoral gains, is a necessary response to the mismanagement that has become increasingly evident under the new Labour government led by Kier Starker. As local authorities face mounting financial pressures, it is critical to hold them accountable for their expenditures rather than merely accepting their fiscal mismanagement.

The establishment of the Doge unit signals a firm intention to harness cutting-edge technology—employing software engineers, data analysts, and forensic auditors—to root out inefficiencies in local government. This approach, inspired by a similar project during Donald Trump’s presidency, demands scrutiny, especially in light of the failures we are witnessing across England in managing public funds. The party's ambitious aims must therefore not only include tracing financial irregularities but also leverage AI and analytical tools to assess everything from contractual arrangements to capital expenditure rigorously.

As local councils grapple with severe financial constraints exacerbated by the Starker government’s policies—particularly in children’s services and adult social care—there is an urgent need for transparency and accountability. The projected deficits looming over many councils, including those now under Reform UK’s administration, highlight the inadequacies of Labour’s approach, which has failed to address the root causes of fiscal irresponsibility.

The current political landscape presents an opportunity for Reform UK to challenge the status quo, but the party must remain vigilant against the skepticism surrounding its ability to enact meaningful financial reforms. The limited discretionary control over council budgets should not deter them from exposing the shortcomings of Labour’s governance. Furthermore, exploring innovative financial avenues such as accepting cryptocurrency donations and adjusting tax policies on digital assets could provide a means to enhance local authorities' efficiency.

As Reform UK moves ahead with this crucial endeavor, the effectiveness of the Doge unit will be under intense scrutiny. With public trust in local government at an all-time low, it is imperative that they translate their technological advancements into practical outcomes that protect taxpayer interests. The onus is on the opposition to ensure that fiscal prudence becomes a reality rather than a mere slogan, while the current Labour administration—too focused on its own agenda—must be held accountable for its reckless financial practices.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/reform-uk-to-send-first-doge-team-to-look-at-council-spending-S3SWWH4KMNIJTD5IKD6KYGO5HU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/reform-uk-to-send-first-doge-team-to-look-at-council-spending-S3SWWH4KMNIJTD5IKD6KYGO5HU/> - Reform UK is deploying its inaugural Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) unit to scrutinise 'wasteful spending' in local councils, beginning with Kent County Council. The team comprises software engineers, data analysts, and forensic auditors, aiming to identify inefficiencies and propose actionable solutions. This initiative mirrors the US Doge, established during Donald Trump's presidency to reduce federal expenditure, with Elon Musk's involvement prior to his departure. The UK unit will utilise artificial intelligence and advanced data analysis tools to assess various financial aspects of councils, including contractual arrangements and capital expenditure.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/9d5f7c54-44f7-43d8-8dbb-d6b55c818e83> - Following Reform UK's significant gains in the May 2025 local elections, the party now governs ten councils across England, including Kent County Council. These councils face substantial financial challenges, with escalating costs in children's services and adult social care, compounded by inflation and limited government support. Reform UK's promises to cut costs are met with scepticism due to limited discretionary control over most council budgets. The upcoming Spending Review on June 11 will be pivotal in determining whether local governments can break the cycle of unsustainable budgets and initiate regeneration in neglected areas.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/ef262672-eeca-4af4-9d73-15faea4012c6> - In May 2025, Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, assumed control of ten local authorities across England, marking its first foray into local governance. Darren Grimes, a former GB News presenter, was appointed deputy leader of Durham County Council, emphasising cost-efficiency and pledging 'citizens' audits' to scrutinise public spending. Reform councillors now manage approximately £10 billion in local service budgets and face significant financial challenges, including £750 million in projected shortfalls over five years and high social care costs consuming 73% of budgets.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/c3b25079-f394-4a40-84af-2c11fa0f6338> - Reform UK, a right-wing populist party led by Nigel Farage, gained control of ten English councils and two metro mayor positions in the 2025 local elections, prompting increased scrutiny of its policy platform. Nationally, Reform promotes anti-immigration, anti-net zero, and anti-'woke' stances. The party advocates for leaving the European Court of Human Rights, offshoring the processing of illegal immigrants, stricter immigration rules, and revoking citizenship for foreign-born criminals. Economically, it supports a small-state model—cutting corporation taxes for SMEs, scrapping inheritance tax, and opposing expanded workers' rights.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/76958f18-b079-4625-a407-476191630d8f> - Reform UK has initiated the acceptance of cryptocurrency donations as part of its broader strategy to integrate digital currencies into public finance. Party chair Zia Yusuf announced plans to enable tax payments in cryptocurrency and establish a sovereign wealth fund composed of crypto assets, aiming to appeal particularly to younger voters. At a cryptocurrency conference, party leader Nigel Farage pledged to reduce capital gains tax on crypto from 24% to 10% and create a national bitcoin reserve, framing himself as a British counterpart to U.S. President Donald Trump’s pro-crypto stance.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/e0b871f8-b3ca-4bf3-944b-ec3f4367b89c> - Conservative shadow minister Andrew Griffith has urged Elon Musk to reconsider supporting Reform UK and instead back the Tories, citing the party’s low-tax and anti-woke stance. Musk had considered donating to Reform UK in a meeting with its leader Nigel Farage and treasurer Nick Candy at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago. This potential support has raised concerns within the Conservative Party about being outflanked by Reform UK in the next general election. Griffith praised Musk's business acumen and emphasised the Conservative Party's alignment with Musk's interests in freedom of speech and reducing government overreach.