PLANNING PUBLIC SPENDING IN THE UK

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PLANNING PUBLIC SPENDING IN THE UK

GRAHAME WALSH

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First published 1987

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Walshe, Grahame

Planning public spending in the UK.

1. Finance, Public—Great Britain

I. Title

336.4 HJ1001

ISBN 978-0-333-44373-6

ISBN 978-1-349-18606-8 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-18606-8

To John

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Preface

Books on public expenditure have a forbidding image. They are often written from an unacceptably partisan viewpoint; or weighed down by theoretical considerations; or remote from the institutional setting; or are highly condensed official presentations. But public spending is not the arcane subject those limitations define it to be. So in this book I have tried to reach beyond the small group of people in the City, Parliament and research institutions who make up the usual audience for material on public expenditure. My aim was to make the subject more accessible and stimulating to students of public finance and administration. I have sought to be as brief as possible; the political dimension is largely omitted; and I have attempted to simplify the theory required to give the facts their proper resonance. Four people, besides my editor Jennifer Pegg, have helped me: Anthea West, a tireless searcher after solecism; Sharon Wood, who patiently processed the typescript; David Miner, who taught me a bit about money; and David Heald, who made helpful comments on a draft. I am very grateful for their labour on my behalf.

GRAHAME WALSHE

Acknowledgements

The authors and publishers wish to thank the following who have kindly given permission for the use of copyright material:

Basil Blackwell Ltd for material from 'Public expenditure on the social services: the economic and political constraints' by G. Davies and D. Piachaud from *The Future of Welfare*, ed. R. Klein and M. O'Higgins, 1985.

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