

Sweden sees sense

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Having [blogged about the fact that I am about to start work writing 'The Joy of Tax'](#) it was good to note [this in the FT this morning](#):

The favourites to win next month's general election in Sweden are planning to reverse course on the current government's economic reforms by limiting private equity involvement in the public sector, raising taxes and boosting spending.

The Swedes have, it appears, run out of enthusiasm for the right, who never seemed to fit their social culture but who have, nonetheless formed the government since 2006. As the FT puts it:

Sweden's centre-right government has gained a reputation for tax cutting and increasing competition in the public sector, which has proved popular with business but voters appear ready for a change as polling data suggests they are more concerned about education, jobs, health, and elderly care.

The reasons are obvious: the policy has not worked. Quality has fallen and that has clearly begun to trouble people. The fact is that it's worth paying for education, health care, care for the elderly and providing decent jobs. They are the foundation of a good society. And that's worth paying for, and tax is the way to do that, and the option the Swedes appear to be going for.

If only more people would say and do so.