

The truth about Osborne's economic plan

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There are three things to say about Osborne's long term economic plan.

The first is he did have one. It was based on imposing austerity. It failed. We had a recession. Incomes fell. He employment rose. The outlook was dire. And after his disastrous budget in March 2012 Osborne abandoned it.

The second is that since then the plan has been anything he can find to boost house prices in the South East (Help to Buy, inheritance tax plans, etc) or that might secure re-election (unfunded NHS spending plans).

The third is this from the [Guardian's report on his appearance on Marr this morning](#):

George Osborne, chancellor of the exchequer, has just appeared on the Marr show. Andrew Marr pressed him on yesterday's Tory pledge to find an extra £8bn for the NHS.

"It's part of our balanced plan", said Osborne, when asked where the money was coming from. "That's not really an answer," responded Marr.

"We have always said we supported the NHS's own plan for its sustainable future, so we offer the best health care in the world and the best medicines ... and because we have that balanced economic plan and because we are prepared to take difficult decisions in other parts of government we can go on increasing the money to the NHS."

Marr interjected: "if you're not going to tell me where the money's coming from, I'll tell you where the money's coming from. It's going to come from even deeper cuts in the unprotected departmental spending budget of around 14% in total, so you're going to hit the police, you're going to hit the armed forces and you're going to hit local government to pay for this."

Or to put it another way, the plan is to lie.

Don't get me wrong: I am not seeking to suggest all the rest of politics is necessarily edifying. But this is deeply unedifying.

And I don't think the Eds in there are puns.