

# Funding the Future

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Polly Toynbee had an excellent [article in the Guardian yesterday](#) summarising the approach of the Tory far-right and making clear that Brexit is but a step in their plan to turn the UK into an entirely different state from that with which we are familiar where all vestiges of the post-war consensus are swept from view. In response I have done a couple of mind maps, one on the hard right alternative and the other on what I consider to be the centre ground alternative to which I believe many political parties in the UK could, and I think should, at present subscribe, whilst allowing for differences of emphasis, of course.

This is the hard right alternative:

Click on the image and then click the resulting image to get a large version.  
Alternatively, this is the text version:

- \* The policy platform proposed by the hard right within the Conservative Party
- \* Dominic Raab
- \* Liz Truss
- \* Priti Patel
- \* Et al
- \* The 'Britannia Unchained' Group closely associated with the fundamentalist 'free enterprise' Institute for Economic Affairs
- \* The principal objectives
  - \* To deliver unfettered market capitalism to the greatest possible degree
  - \* To shrink the size of government
  - \* To remove the social safety net of the welfare state
  - \* To distribute the return from doing so to those on the highest incomes; those with wealth and to the largest companies
- \* The practical consequences
  - \* Government withdrawal from traditional areas of activity
  - \* The environment
  - \* Employee protection including the abolition of the minimum wage, reduced health and safety obligations, reduced employment protection and attacks on the remaining rights of trade unions
- \* The protection of minorities and the tackling of discrimination, including on the basis

of gender, sexual orientation, faith, race and other issues

- \* Overseas aid and development
  - \* Higher education
  - \* Significant parts of health supply
  - \* Pension provision
  - \* Support for trade and industry
  - \* Substantial tax reform
  - \* Reductions in corporate taxation, or its eventual abolition
  - \* Likely abolition of inheritance tax
  - \* Significant cuts in or abolition of capital gains tax
  - \* Flat rate income tax across all income ranges
  - \* Likely increases in VAT, including its extension to housing, food, health care and education
  - \* Free movement of capital and migration policies to suit its owners
  - \* The ending of many benefits
  - \* Cuts in support for those who are unemployed
  - \* Continuing reductions in benefits for those with disabilities
  - \* Reductions in housing support
  - \* Reductions in the real value of state pensions
  - \* Increasing obstacles placed in the way of claimants to reduce uptake
  - \* Reduced transparency
  - \* Less accountability for government
  - \* The outsourcing of many services putting them beyond public and political accountability
  - \* Reduced corporate disclosure requirements
  - \* An end to Freedom of Information
  - \* Reduced press regulation to provide freedom to far-right media outlets
- And this is the centre ground alternative:

This is the text version of that:

- \* The policy that should be promoted by all parties that have the interests of the majority of people in the UK at heart. There should be broad consensus across:
  - \* Labour
  - \* The SNP
  - \* LibDems
  - \* Plaid
  - \* Greens
  - \* SDLP
  - \* Sinn Fein
  - \* And some in the Conservative Party
- \* The principal objectives
  - \* To promote a sustainable democracy
  - \* To protect the environment
  - \* To deliver long-term employment opportunities
  - \* To protect the vulnerable in society
  - \* To maintain a social safety net in a welfare state
- \* The practical consequences
- \* Government support for
- \*

Environmental protection

- \* A strong, mixed economy in which markets and state each do what they are best at, and work in partnership when appropriate (but not for dogmatic reasons)
  - \* Employee rights
  - \* Those who suffer discrimination in all its forms
  - \* Those who suffer absolute and relative poverty
  - \* The correction of market failure, including on:
    - \* Health and safety
    - \* Exploitative products
    - \* Monopoly abuse
    - \* Unfair competition
  - \* The right to:
    - \* Housing
    - \* Childcare
    - \* Lifelong education to provide skills for life and not just employment
    - \* Employment
    - \* Dignity in old age
    - \* Protection, including from the state and employers
  - \* New businesses when markets cannot or will not provide access to capital
  - \* Overseas aid
  - \* International protection of human rights
  - \* Peace
  - \* Controlled migration within an open and accountable policy framework
  - \* Substantial tax reform
  - \* The creation of a progressive tax system because reducing income and wealth inequality is the right thing to do for society
  - \* Increasing tax charges for larger businesses because they are failing to compensate for the risk they pose to society
  - \* An environmental focus to taxation to help tackle climate change
  - \* A commitment to a welfare state
  - \* The necessary corollary of the noted policy objectives
  - \* Enhanced accountability
  - \* Improved government accounting
  - \* Enhanced disclosure on the control of the tax system with a focus on demonstrating its equity at the broadest possible level
  - \* Press regulation to uphold freedom of expression and to prevent concentrated control of the media
  - \* Electoral reform to enhance the democratic accountability of all elected officials and all forms of government
  - \* Bringing outsourced government service suppliers within the control of accountability
- I long for the centre ground to realise that it is in their combined interests to beat the far-right. And now is the time to do it. Then the differences of emphases that parties rightly have can be explored. But none are possible if the far-right win.