

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, on on the hard right alternative and the other ion 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 in 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.