

Funding the Future

When there is so much need for new thinking - and when ...

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Keir Starmer launched a new Labour policy initiative yesterday. It managed 20 seconds on Channel 4 news, below the SNP leadership election. And there was good reason for that. It was a total, meaningless word salad.

This is the summary [on the Labour website](#):



What does mission mean? Is it just an alternative to pledge because they have used that before?

And how is sustained growth reconciled with net zero?

Come to that, why is net-zero electricity the only sustainability goal? What about everything else?

As for the NHS, it does not need reform. It needs a lot of money. And there was no mention of whether that was on offer. But the private sector will be playing a part.

I could say the same for the police. Sure we need to weed out corruption. But having the money to recruit decent people in sufficient numbers is the answer there as well.

And barriers to opportunity exist because of a failure to tackle inequality because Labour is far too relaxed about wealth and will not tax it.

These opening headlines were all poor.

The speech Starmer gave was if anything worse. On the economy, we are going to have sound money, respect for the institutions within the economy (the neoliberals in the Treasury, OBR and Bank of England will be lapping that up) and fiscal rules intended to ensure Labour cannot spend just to keep those same neoliberals happy.

This was a desperate vision for government from a party without a clue as to why it actually wants power.

I genuinely despair that when there is so much need for new thinking - and when that thinking is available - we get an offering as bad as this. Heaven help us, because we will need it.