

Labour is planning to fail

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The great domestic demands of this moment are fourfold.

We need to rebuild from the wreckage of austerity and liberate this country to do all those things that are possible.

We need to rebuild our international relationships, which are in tatters after Brexit.

We need a green transition because our future depends on it.

And we need to rebuild faith in politics so that these things might happen.

You can argue there are more: I would suggest most will fit under one of the above headings, including almost anything to do with public services as well as matters to do with inequality and discrimination, all of which have been deliberately exacerbated by thirteen years of Tory rule and decades of neoliberalism.

We know the Tories will not do these things. There is no point speculating on that issue: they are not only dogmatically determined not to deliver what is in the best interests of people, but they would not be capable of doing so now even if they had the necessary change of heart required for them to do so.

So, we have to look to Labour. They, [as the Guardian notes this morning](#), just days after the greatest conference they will have for years to come have already decided that it is time to row back from previous commitments made, vague as they already were.

So, the commitment to social care reform they once made has been abandoned.

Their already desperately weak commitment to constitutional reform has also been weakened by backtracking on House of Lords reform. They are no longer committed to delivering an elected second chamber. We also already know proportional representation has been abandoned, even if the commitment to it is already Labour Party policy, and as for the people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, they are to be governed by England for as long as England likes whatever the people of those

countries might think.

And, when it comes to green investment, not only is the investment downscaled now, as we have known for a while, so too is the word green to be dropped, because Labour claims people do not like it. The commitment now is to jobs. But when you have already agreed to keep decisions on new coal mines and oilfields I suppose that any old carbon-intensive job will do now for Labour, whatever the cost.

As for Brexit, there remains no comment. The commitment to Israel is, however, apparently unconditional whatever it might do in Gaza, which appears to me to be an impossible position to take, however appalling the actions of Hamas have been (and they have been, so please do not disagree).

There is only one obvious conclusion. It is that having seen that winning power is possible over the last week or so, Labour has now decided to do everything it can to deny itself the chance of actually achieving anything whilst in office.

With its refusal to increase taxes on wealth, its commitment to not borrow except for feeble investment programmes, and its failure to tackle the issues resulting from both Brexit and a failed electoral system, Labour has boxed itself into the position where it might win power in a year's time but then have no capacity, or even willingness, to do anything with it.

If so, Labour would be the ultimate neoliberal government. Not only would it be cowardly - deeming that if market interests cannot solve any problem, then nor can it - but it will have given prior warning of its intention to do nothing about any of the big issues that face us, and then succeed to the very limited extent that it will live up to its promise to not do so.

In 1992 Labour's conference presaged electoral failure. I doubt its 2023 conference will do that, simply because the Tories are now so bad. But it could presage something else, which is Labour's own total failure to deliver in office, which may be worse.

The Mid-Beds by-election might just deliver the shock Labour needs to appreciate the mess it has already got itself into. But I doubt that even defeat there, which I now think likely, will work to achieve that goal.

We really are in trouble.