

Building Britain's Future





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Foreword from the Prime Minister

This is a moment of profound change in our country driven by the global economic downturn and the crisis of trust in our political system. We recognise that recent events have badly shaken the public's confidence both in the financial markets and in politicians of all parties. We will take the tough action necessary to restore confidence.

We know that bold reforms and the setting out of clear priorities - based on a new strategy for governing - are needed to restore people's trust in politics.

In this plan for Building Britain's Future we are determined to take forward the reforms of the last decade. Since 1997, we have demonstrated that strong, active government works: expanding educational opportunity, saving the NHS for a generation, a National Minimum Wage, employment rights for millions of workers, tackling child and pensioner poverty, devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, ensuring that Britain is engaged in Europe and the wider world.

We have shown that social justice and economic competitiveness are not mutually incompatible, but two sides of the same coin. That is a record of which any government can be proud.

After more than a decade in government, I am ever more convinced of a profound but simple truth: our greatest successes and our most enduring reforms have come when we are boldest and most determined in overcoming those forces and vested interests holding back change.

Our institutions must be re-built for the global age so that they are held to account by a set of values we can all share - based on a fair balance between duties and rewards, opportunities and obligations to the wider society in which we live.

Our task after three terms in office is not merely to defend Britain's achievements over the last decade but to work harder and drive forward so as to meet new challenges with the same sense of conviction.

Our first and most urgent priority as we fight for the interests of the British people is to clean up our politics. Britain's future cannot be built when the system is still governed by the rules of a Victorian past.

The task of modernising the British constitutional settlement is not yet complete: we must be prepared to give more power to people, reforming Parliament and devolving and decentralising power even further throughout our country.

We will fight hard to expand opportunities for British people, by getting Britain back to work quicker and by developing new, stable, sources of growth. We will build Britain's future by investing in that future - all the way from guaranteeing work for the under 25s to investing in vibrant new sectors like advanced and green manufacturing.

Above all, we will fight hard to deliver world class public services that give those who contribute to our society a chance to get on. This will involve a radical dispersal of power: in the future, patients and parents must drive the system, with real rights of redress where entitlements are not delivered.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams should serve and work with their communities. We must ensure that everyone, not only those with wealth and privilege is able to enjoy world-class health and education. That requires the next generation of public service reforms spelt out in this plan.

The current economic climate is not an excuse for drift or inaction, but the moment to forge a new economic and constitutional settlement for Britain. We will not walk away from people in challenging times. We will continue to fight for a fairer prosperity and a responsible society on the basis of our enduring values. This is not a job just for the Government but for the country as a whole. Together, we can do it.



Gordon Brown
Prime Minister

Britain today



Britain is now a fairer, stronger and safer country than it was in 1997. Poverty has been reduced, inequality has levelled off, and school standards are high and rising. With greater investment in communities and neighbourhood policing, and a stricter and more effective justice system, overall crime has fallen by 39%, with violent crime down by 40%. Public satisfaction with the NHS is at an all-time high and waiting lists have been eliminated. Power is more widely shared within the UK, and Britain is a global hub once again, at the heart of Europe and engaged with the rest of the world.

These are precious achievements that make Britain a better place to live for all its citizens. They have transformed the life chances of millions of people, young and old, and are the foundation for strength and prosperity in the years ahead.

The challenges ahead

However, big challenges still lie before us. The MPs' expenses scandal has corroded faith in our democracy just as a global economic crisis has threatened our jobs and homes.

Each crisis was born out of a fundamental breach of trust. Because of this, a sense of unfairness pervades contemporary Britain.

People want better. They want strong institutions they can rely on and they want to see a fairer, more responsible society in which talent and hard work are rewarded. They want security and support for their families.



Our principles

This is our plan to respond to these demands. We will do so with bold action and unwavering direction, and with a clear set of core principles about how to build a stronger, fairer, more prosperous Britain:

- A commitment to social justice and a fairer society;
- The belief that each of us has a responsibility to play by the rules and make a contribution to our communities;
- The recognition that we owe an obligation to protect the planet for future generations;
- The understanding that only national and local government and people acting together can solve the most difficult challenges facing our country, and make the most of the opportunities; and
- The certainty that the only guarantee of security, opportunity and prosperity is that the institutions of market and state are efficient and properly accountable.

Building Britain's future – twelve commitments to the people of Britain



In Building Britain's Future we set out how we will create a Britain that lives up to these principles in the new global era. Action will be urgent, focused and decisive, and the Government will work with the people of Britain in our shared task – so that we together build a stronger, fairer and more prosperous country.

It involves some hard choices where we have switched and prioritised spending within and between departments to stimulate new growth and new jobs, particularly for young people. This includes new plans for housing, train electrification, and establishing an Innovation Fund.

Our plan is based around three clear priorities:

- Cleaning up politics and reforming our democracy;
- Taking Britain out of recession into recovery, so as to put in place the conditions for future economic success; and
- Further reforming Britain's public services and modernising our national infrastructure.

To advance these priorities, we are making twelve commitments to the people of Britain.

To find out more and to contribute your views and ideas, visit the Building Britain's Future website at: www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture

1. CLEANING UP POLITICS

- To rebuild trust in politics, we will create an independent regulator for parliamentary standards and a statutory Code of Conduct for all MPs.
- We will further reform the House of Lords, including the process of removing the hereditary principle. And we will now bring forward a draft bill for a smaller and democratically constituted second chamber.

2. JOBS AND SKILLS

- We will not lose another generation to worklessness. We will guarantee a sixth form, college or apprenticeship place to all school leavers. From next year, every person under 25 who has been out of work for a year will have to take a job, training, or work experience place. Adults who have been out of work for six months will get help with setting up a business, skills training, or volunteering opportunities.
- The £1 billion Future Jobs Fund will provide 100,000 jobs for young people and a further 50,000 new jobs in areas of high unemployment.

3. A NEW ECONOMY

- We will pursue a new, more active industrial policy to drive growth and create the high value jobs of the future. We will invest to ensure that Britain can lead in the new industries of the global economy, ensuring broadband access for all by 2012 and working towards a nationwide high-speed broadband network by 2016.
- We will ensure that Britain's economy is underpinned by a world class modern infrastructure and that we have world-leading capabilities in the 'network' industries of the future – low carbon, biotechnology, life sciences, digital, advanced manufacturing and financial services.
- To support the key technology-based sectors of the future we will establish a new £150 million Innovation Fund which will over time lever up to £1 billion of private sector funding.

4. MORE POWER FOR PATIENTS

- Patients will have enforceable rights to high standards of care, including hospital treatment within 18 weeks, access to a cancer specialist within 2 weeks, and free health-checks on the NHS for people aged 40-74.

- We will look closely at where we can go further to establish new rights, for example to NHS dentistry, to evening and weekend access to GPs, to an individual budget for those with long-term or chronic conditions and whether we can create a right to choose to die at home as further progress is made in implementing the end of life care strategy.

5. MORE POWER FOR PARENTS

- Parents will now be guaranteed an education that is individually tailored for their child, including: a personal tutor for every pupil at secondary school; stretching teaching for all pupils, with catch up tuition for those who need it, including one to one; and qualifications that suit every child's strengths whether practical or academic.
- We will back headteachers to enforce good behaviour in every classroom and achieve high standards for all pupils, with the best head teachers working in more than one school as we radically expand federations of schools, Trusts and Academies.

6. INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

- We are working towards ensuring that, in time, every young person gives at least 50 hours of service to their community in their teenage years.
- In the coming years, we will create new or refurbished youth centres or other facilities in every constituency to ensure that all young people have easy access to positive activities.

7. EARLY YEARS

- We are creating local Sure Start Children's Centres within easy reach of every parent and we are extending free early learning for two year olds.
- To make sure they have the best start to their primary education, all children will be entitled to start school in the September after their fourth birthday, or be offered 25 hours of free early learning a week.
- The Government is extending the right to request flexible working for parents of children aged under 16.

8. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- An additional £1.5 billion will be invested over the next 2 years to deliver 20,000 new affordable homes, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction and related sectors.

9. CRIME AND POLICING

- We will take a bold new approach to policing and justice. We will give local people more power to keep their neighbourhoods safe, including the right to hold the police to account at monthly beat meetings, have a say on CCTV and other crime prevention measures, and vote on how offenders pay back to the community.

10. IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- We will now require newcomers to earn the right to stay, extending the points based system to probationary citizenship applications and controlling the number of people getting settlement.

11. A LOW CARBON FUTURE

- We have set the world's first legally-binding carbon targets, cutting UK emissions by a third over the next decade.
- We are investing in energy efficiency and the next generation of renewables, nuclear and clean coal technology to make Britain a global leader in low carbon industries.

- We will set out plans for a major programme of rail electrification.
- In the coming year we will publish a feasibility study for a new North-South high speed rail line.
- We will provide incentives for the take up of low carbon buses and develop a National Cycle Plan to promote cycling as a mainstream form of personal transport.

12. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- We will ensure Britain leads globally on three major international reforms over the coming year: reforming the International Financial Institutions including through the G20; securing a global climate change agreement in Copenhagen by the end of 2009; leading global action to fight poverty, and driving forward a step-change on the nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament agenda in 2010.

Building Britain's Future is the start of a process to engage with people on the big issues facing our country today.

We want to work with the British people to move out of the downturn quickly, and also build a better Britain of the future – one that's fairer, more prosperous and sustainable.

To find out more about *Building Britain's Future* and contribute your views and comments, visit the Building Britain's Future website at www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture

Cabinet and Regional Ministers will be holding a number of town hall events up and down the country during July and August to explain more about the plan and to consult with members of the public on how to take it forward. To learn more about the events, visit www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture/roadshow

The Draft Legislative Programme of 11 bills is an important element of Building Britain's Future. In the next few weeks and months the Government will present a number of key policy papers to the public, including the Schools White Paper, the Care and Support Green Paper, the Energy and Climate Change White Paper and the Life Sciences Blueprint.

The Government wants to hear your views on this draft programme. Tell us what you think by going to www.commonleader.org.uk by the **deadline of 21 September 2009**.

Key government deliverables for 2009/10

Theme	Key deliverables over the next year
Democratic Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent regulator for parliamentary standards established • New statutory Code of Conduct for all MPs • Independent Audit of all MPs' expenses • Online publications of all future MPs' expenses • Draft House of Lords Reform Bill • Constitutional Renewal Bill, including action to remove the hereditary principle from the House of Lords • Wright Commission on modernising the House of Commons • Action on local democratic renewal • Completion of a national consultation on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
Real Help Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extra 35,000 apprentices start work bringing the total to over 250,000 • Young Persons Guarantee of a job or training place introduced for all 18-24 year olds before they reach long-term unemployment • 150,000 jobs through £1 billion Future Jobs Fund • Subsidised training or employment for adults unemployed for six months • £1.2 billion support for affordable housing to buy and rent • Mortgage Rescue Scheme and Homeowners Mortgage Support to help households facing repossession • Enterprise Finance Guarantee underwrites up to £1.3 billion of lending • Up to £75 million in equity for SMEs through Capital for Enterprise Fund • VAT cut puts £20 billion back into economy

Theme	Key deliverables over the next year
Real Help Now continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.9 million families £150 a year better off through raised Child Tax Credit • Car scrappage scheme stimulates up to 300,000 new car purchases • New Growth fund provides over £18 million to support an extra 45,000 affordable loans • Up to £42.5 million support for volunteers, charities and social enterprises plus additional £16.7 million hardship fund
Investing for the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax relief supporting £50 billion of capital investment • £150 million Innovation Fund which will over time lever in up to £1 billion of private sector funding • £750 million Strategic Investment Fund established • 'Infrastructure UK' launched • Guarantee of a sixth form, college or apprenticeship place to all school leavers who want one • £400 million to kickstart mothballed developments and £100 million for Local Authorities to deliver new social housing • Work underway to rebuild or refurbish secondary or primary schools in every Local Authority in England • National roll out of an integrated employment and skills system • Up to 1,000 additional wind turbines on and offshore • £1.5 billion to deliver 20,000 additional energy efficient affordable homes over the next two years • Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation ensures 5 per cent of all road fuels sold come from bio-fuels

Theme	Key deliverables over the next year
Fair Chances for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 hours of one-to-one English or Maths tuition for thousands of seven to sixteen-year-olds • All secondary school pupils have a personal tutor from September 2010 • Prescription charges abolished for all cancer patients • All patients with suspected cancer will continue to be seen by a specialist within two weeks • First ever NHS Constitution enshrined in legislation • All patients will be treated within 18 weeks from GP referral, where clinically appropriate • At least 75 per cent of GP surgeries offer patients extended evening or weekend opening hours • Up to a million people aged 40-74 receive new NHS health checks • Personal Health Budgets pilots begin to give patients and carers more control over healthcare decisions • All social housing tenants have a greater say over where they live through Choice Based Lettings
Fair Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with police forces and authorities, monthly neighbourhood beat meetings and minimum police response times embedded, including answering 999 calls within 10 seconds • Neighbourhood policing teams embedded in every neighbourhood • New sanction for all benefit fraud first offenders, creating a 'one strike' provision • Crackdown on fraud in the social housing sector • Complete the implementation of the Points Based System for immigration on entry • Over 95 per cent of passengers counted in and out of the country through electronic checks by the end of 2010

Theme	Key deliverables over the next year
Families and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,500 Sure Start Children’s Centres established – one in every community • Free entitlement to 15 hours of high-quality early education a week for every three and four year old • Expansion of free childcare to the most disadvantaged two year olds • Youth Community Service begins – so that in time all young people have the opportunity to give something back to the community • Offer of five hours PE and sport for young people • More people are saving effectively through the new Saving Gateway accounts
Britain in a fairer and safer world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitious global climate change agreement in Copenhagen secured • Pittsburgh Summit builds on London Summit measures to secure sustainable global economic recovery • UK report to lead global review of nuclear non-proliferation • 1,000 UK civilian experts readily available for deployment in post-conflict stabilisation around the world

Not all of these items will apply equally across the UK, because of the different nature of the devolution settlements.

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Important information about this leaflet. This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of June 2009. It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law. We recommend that you get independent advice before making any financial decisions based on the information in this leaflet.

Prepared for Cabinet Office by COI