

'Starmer's bold blueprints'

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Starmer's six step plan

- Sir Keir Starmer has issued six pledges which he claims will hold his government to account. He did this via a major speech, in which he set out his priorities for the Labour government.

The prime minister said his “plan for change” focused on the following six targets: the economy, housebuilding, the NHS, policing, pre-school education, and green energy. Starmer believes that if his Labour government can solve prominent issues in these six sectors, it would give “the British people the power to hold our feet to the fire”.

To be more precise, the six milestones which the government is aiming to meet by 2029 are;

- Raising living standards in every part of the UK as part of the government's aim to deliver the highest sustained economic growth in the G7, (an informal group of industrialised democracies, including: the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the UK) group of rich nations.

- Building 1.5 million homes in England and fast-tracking planning decisions on at least 150 major infrastructure projects.

- Ending hospital backlogs (improvements in health and quality of life being postponed) to meet the NHS target that 92% of patients in England wait no longer than 18 weeks for planned treatment.

- An armed police officer for every neighbourhood in England and Wales, with the recruitment of 13,000 additional police officers, police community support officers and special constables.

- Increasing the proportion of children in England who are “ready to learn” when they start school at the age of 5 to 75%

- Putting the country on track for at least 95% of clean power by 2030

Economic Stability

The government aims to address the cost-of-living crisis, caused by inflation, which has peaked at 11% in recent years. It aims to reduce net financial public debt which is over 80% of GDP, and manage a £22 billion overspend. Efforts include fiscal rules, a “fiscal lock,” (a limit or restriction governments put in place to constrain how much they can borrow to fund public spending and taxes) and supporting the Monetary Policy Committee to meet a 2% inflation target sustainably. Other measures involve resilient fiscal policies, balanced budgets, a business tax roadmap, and long-term capital investment strategies.

Secure Borders

Migration has increased fivefold in four years, while asylum costs have risen to £5.4 billion. Efforts include trying to remove backlogs, addressing skills shortages, and cracking down on organised crime. A Border Security Command was established to reduce small boat crossings, alongside record removals and reforms to low taxpayer burdens.

National Security

Threats to the UK include: Russian aggression, climate change, and terrorism. Defence spending will increase to 2.5% of GDP, sustaining the nuclear deterrent. Measures include a heightened NATO cooperation, counterterrorism strategies, cyber resilience, and securing supply chains. The government continues to support Ukraine and aims for long term stability against systemic threats.

Policing and Public Trust

Public trust in policing has declined, with fewer visible police patrols, the halving of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and cases of police misconduct. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a significant issue, affecting 1.1 million people.

Safer Streets Mission

Labour’s aim is to reduce harm and boost public confidence, by halving knife crime and violence against women and girls within the space of a decade. The government plans to add 13,000 additional officers, Police Community Support Officers, and special constables to neighbourhood policing, ensuring visibility in communities and reducing crime.

Children's Early Years and Education

Over 80% of parents struggle to access childcare services, contributing to many children being unprepared for school. Issues such as not being able to dress independently or lack of toilet training affect 90% of reception teachers. This results in a loss of teacher time being around 2.5 hours daily. The government aims to address this by ensuring 75% of 5-year-olds reach a good level of development by 2028, an increase from 67.7%, adding 40,000-45,000 children to the developmental milestones each year.

Energy Crisis And The Need For Clean Energy

Families and businesses have suffered from rising energy bills due to the UK's failure to invest in domestic clean energy. This vulnerability was exposed when the war in Ukraine caused energy costs to soar. Other countries are ahead in securing clean energy jobs, while climate change worsens. The UK has abundant renewable resources and a pioneering clean tech industry, but these opportunities need to be harnessed for energy security and economic growth.

Clean Energy Mission

This mission aims to provide lower-cost, clean and secure energy, while supporting job creation in clean tech. By achieving 95% low-carbon energy generation by 2030, the UK will protect consumers, create jobs, and reduce dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets. The government also seeks to revive British manufacturing and innovation through this transformation.

Starmer's ambitious policies for his Labour government aim to provide security for the Nation and look to enforce radical change. Although Badenochs' Conservative government deeply opposed and criticised his plans, it is debated that Starmer is taking a step in the right direction.