

Dynamic priorities for election manifestos

Politicians must be bolder and embrace visionary policy ideas which will help ensure the UK's future prosperity, security and stability. NHJ has identified ten priorities for consideration as manifestos for the 2015 election are developed. These stem from a significant value shift which sees society automatically putting community before the individual, and focusing much more on the next and future generations. A radical restructure of Whitehall is necessary in order to change the way government operates. Some priorities can be delivered in the short-term, whilst others could only be delivered over time and as dynamics permit – nevertheless, they merit 'direction of travel' attention now in pre-election thinking and debates.

NHJ priorities which may interest you

Restructure Whitehall, including re-grading of senior cabinet posts:

- Appoint a new foreign and domestic security 'supremo' - one person with overall responsibility for foreign/ overseas aid/ defence & domestic security, combining 'hard' and 'soft' power security responsibilities. This new role, along with the Chancellor, would be a Deputy Prime Minister position.
- The next senior tier, in order, could be: Business & Innovation; Education & Skills; Energy, Climate Change & Environment; Social Cohesion & The Vulnerable (a new 'supremo' covering welfare, communities, health); Regions & Local Government.

Reduce central government role and responsibilities:

- Update the Act of Union to reflect the role of the four constituent nations, including more responsibilities for the regions, London 'City State', and rural communities.
- Re-define core 21st century national activities to irreducible top level direction, divesting most of health, education, and regional transport and infrastructure management to regional bodies.

Embed and incentivise a culture of universal community service:

- Taught, experienced, and practiced within the core curriculum from age 7-16.
- Tailored incentives for all ages (e.g. students offset university loans/debt and tax breaks for all ages for set number of hours per month or days worked in the community per year).

Abbreviated list of NHJ ten dynamic priorities:

- Values: putting community, and others - including next generations - first.
- Restructure Whitehall, including re-grading of senior cabinet posts.
- Reduce central government role and responsibilities.
- Re-define the nature of the Welfare State.
- Increase funding for education, training, and innovation – 'prosperity drivers'.
- Embed and incentivise a culture of universal community service.
- Full employment for 16-30 year olds – safety-net employment and development.
- 50% UK energy from domestic sources by 2025 – 80+% self-sufficiency by 2035.
- Active UK leadership in Europe – produce a blueprint for a 'new model' EU.
- Security: improve the 'extremis' military and 'blue light services' response capabilities.

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