

	Key manifesto quote	Education	Healthcare	Transport	Housing	Energy	Planning	Quangos	PFI	Business	Significant others
Labour	We have taken the tough decisions to get Britain through the downturn ... On public spending, we will be relentless in making sure that the public gets value for money for every pound spent	Committed to Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the Primary Capital Programme. Labour has not said whether it would slow either down, although BSF is scheduled to focus more on refurbishment anyway. Would retain Partnerships for Schools.	Some 118 new hospital schemes opened under Labour and a further 18 are under construction. Funding for the next two years would continue to rise by 5% a year and in the two years after that, 2012-13, funding for the "95% of the NHS" made up of "frontline services" would be protected. Capital spending would be focused "on primary and community services".	Would build a third runway at Heathrow, a north-south high-speed rail link and would take forward plans within the next parliament. Would also improve commuter services for London and electrify key lines. Committed to completing Crossrail.	Pledges to build 50,000 affordable homes, reduce regulatory costs and scale back the section 106 system. By 2015, 40,000 homes a year to get green makeovers, including cavity wall and loft insulation. All new homes to be zero carbon by 2016.	Forty per cent of electricity to come from low-carbon sources by 2020; 15% to come from pure renewables. Wind power is a priority, and a decision promised early in the next parliament on the feasibility of the Severn tidal energy scheme. Is committed to nuclear power and four "clean" coal plants.	Would introduce central targets for public agencies, including councils, to release publicly owned land for housing. Would cut planning grants to councils which failed to identify a five-year supply of housing land.	Will cut £500m from quangos and Whitehall, but would keep Cabe, the Homes and Communities Agency and Partnerships for Schools in their current states.	Although Labour stated its continuing commitment to PFI, it has more recently said it will not play favourites. Its clearest commitment to PFI has been the formation of the Treasury Infrastructure Finance Unit to plug finances in infrastructure projects.	National insurance to rise 1%. No mention of VAT. Would keep the Time to Pay scheme and offer a one-year holiday on business rates. Would create a "credit adjudicator" to help firms in dispute with their bank. UK Finance for Growth Fund would use £4bn of public funds to channel equity to businesses looking to grow.	Committed to "widening support for training and apprenticeships". Would extend design standards for schools to all government-funded buildings. Would "make savings in regeneration funding and focus on transforming the prospects of those areas most disconnected from the wider economy".
Conservative	We will take immediate action to cut £6bn of wasteful departmental spending in the financial year 2010/11, with further savings in future years ... These actions will allow us to reduce the deficit more quickly than Labour while avoiding the most damaging part of their jobs tax	Would allow parents to set up academies – which favours conversion rather than new build. Tight-lipped over whether investment in school buildings would continue at present levels, but has said school reforms would be funded from "within the existing Building Schools for the Future budget". May give councils greater control over whether to spend money on teachers or buildings – which could reduce spending on the latter.	Pledged to increase spending on healthcare, but has made no statement on building programmes.	Would build high-speed rail link between London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. Would scrap third runway project at Heathrow and block second runway at Gatwick and Stansted. Would build new roads to ease bottlenecks, but has not given details. "Supports" Crossrail.	Would abolish regional spatial strategies and give councils grant and council tax for each new home. HIPs to be abolished, and Lifetime Homes standard would be voluntary. Would allow every household the right to have up to £6,500 worth of home insulation.	Wants to expand offshore wind and tidal power to create offshore energy grid. Would create four carbon capture and storage plants. Would introduce incentives for smaller scale energy generation, including capturing waste heat. Would press on with nuclear, provided no public subsidy required.	Would introduce a presumption in favour of development. Would abolish Infrastructure Planning Commission and integrate it with the Planning Inspectorate, but would provide transitional arrangements for projects already before the IPC.	Would reduce amount of money distributed to quangos by £1bn over the next parliament. Partnerships for Schools' remit would be scaled back, Cabe may become self-funding, and the ARB would be scrapped. Many further education quangos to go.	May reduce PFI work in favour of direct contracting where this is cheaper. Planning an overhaul of the PFI model to transfer more risk onto private sector, although what this would entail is unclear. Would show PFI debt on the government's balance sheet.	No rise in NI. The corporation tax cut to 25p (20p for SMEs). For the first two years of a Tory government, new businesses would not pay NI on the first 10 employees hired in first year. The small business relief rate would be automatic, and the party will aim to deliver 25% of research and procurement contracts through SMEs.	Would redevelop the prison estate and take forward the findings of the Pitt Review to improve flood defences. Will replace Labour's training initiatives, including Train2Gain, with new schemes aimed at creating 400,000 work pairing, apprenticeship, college and training places over two years.