



Starmer's secret Burnham attack plan leaks

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Andy Burnham, Keir Starmer, and a Top Secret plan

Seemingly oblivious to reality, Keir Starmer has said he will fight against Andy Burnham in a leadership challenge. We say "oblivious", because Starmer is one of the most unpopular PMs in history, and [Burnham just smashed Reform](#) in a by-election despite Farage's party leading the polls for over a year.

Should Starmer defend himself, we now know roughly what he has planned:

 **NEW:** A leaked No 10 document shows how Keir Starmer plans to stop Andy Burnham becoming PM

"Andy Burnham hasn't faced any real scrutiny yet. A true contest would likely see his support wane"

[@Guardian](#) pic.twitter.com/Oq5TmYZp1E

Politics UK (@PoliticsUK) [June 19, 2026](#)

Starmer - Bring down Burnham

Starmer's strategy begins like this:

A potential leadership contest has not even begun:

- AB hasn't faced any real scrutiny yet. A true contest would expose him to questions that he hasn't ever before had to answer and likely see his support wane as a result.

To be fair, it is true Burnham hasn't been properly scrutinised. It's also true that it's unclear what his plan for government is, as we've covered:

- [Burnham is silent on wealth taxes - not a promising sign from potential PM](#)
- [Shapeshifting Burnham ditches trans rights to panic-grab Reform votes](#)
- [Burnham slammed for saying he won't renationalise Thames Water](#)
- [Green candidate calls out genocide as Burnham sits on fence](#)
- [Andy U-Turnham has already abandoned the Waspi women](#)

He has given *some* idea of what the plan is post-by-election, but we're going to need more detail than this, and we won't get that in advance if Labour coronates him:



WATCH: Andy Burnham shares his vision for Britain during his Makerfield victory rally:

• End "trickle-down" economics

• End the "unfair" immigration system

• Push reindustrialisation

• Public procurement to use British business

• Work placements for all 16-18-year-olds pic.twitter.com/awSZvYgoaa

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The Starmer plan continues:

The trajectory for AB has not been positive

- Exposure in recent weeks has led to a decline in public support for AB across the board. His favourability has dropped -6ppts since May and those with an unfavourable opinion have increased by +9ppts (Chart 1).
- Even amongst those saying they would vote for AB in published member polls, a significant proportion of members are still unsure of their vote or genuinely undecided.

This is fair enough, but do they really think that Starmer will have a "positive trajectory" in a leadership contest?

He won the 2020 leadership election on the back of [10 left-leaning pledges](#) that he later unceremoniously abandoned. This means no matter what he promises this time around, no one will believe him.

Clutching at polls

The plan continued:

The membership can change their views

- The membership has shown it is capable of significant volatility in its judgements on prospective candidates. For example, support for KS in a head-to-head with WS shifted dramatically over the course of just a few months – going from a dead heat in November 2025 to a 34-point KS lead in May (Survation).

Members give KS personal credit as PM and rate Labour’s time in office positively:

- 80% of the membership say Labour has done a good job in govt.
- 66% believe KS has done a good job as Prime Minister.
- This positivity extends across most areas of policy, with at least 55% saying the government have done well in each area polled, rising as high as 87% when it comes to the NHS and 81% on workers’ rights.

The Labour membership loved Burnham, but the faction who maneuvered Starmer into power said that didn’t matter. According to them, membership are inconsequential; all that matters is what the general public thinks. Now, they’re urging Starmer to ignore the public and to listen to members.

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It’s almost as if they don’t believe in anything, and will literally say anything to get their own way.

The strategy also highlights a graph which shows Burnham’s favourability dropped during the Makerfield by-election:

Chart 1: IPSOS, 5-9 June 2026, Red line unfavourable; Green line favourable

Andy Burnham: April 2024 – June 2026

33% Unfavourable
26% Favourable

Again, this is fair enough, but do you know what will improve his favourability? Pummelling the much-loathed Starmer [in a leadership contest](#).

It’s over

The fact that this secret plan leaked shows even Starmer’s top team is trying to bring him down.

Now, Starmer does at last seem to be wrestling with reality:

 **BREAKING:** Keir Starmer is now considering resigning after Cabinet Ministers called for him to step down

He'll come to a decision with his wife and family over the weekend

[@thetimes](#)

â?? Politics UK (@PoliticsUK) [June 19, 2026](#)

Team Starmer arenâ??t wrong to say Burnham is untested, anyway. We really have no idea what heâ??s got planned as prime minister. You know, besides [keeping up the attacks on sick and disabled people](#) [maintaining a Reform-like stance on migration](#), and [refusing to acknowledge the genocide](#)

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By [Willem Moore](#)

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