

Labour's manifesto on devolution and how it relates to Yorkshire

What they say:

“A Labour government will establish a Constitutional Convention to examine and advise on reforming of the way Britain works at a fundamental level.

We will consult on its form and terms of reference and invite recommendations on extending democracy.

The Convention will look at extending democracy locally, regionally and nationally, considering the option of a more federalised country.

We need a relationship of equals with devolved administrations. Labour will create a role for a Minister for England, who will sit under the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and will work with the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will restore regional offices to increase contact between central and local government on the ground.

Labour will be guided by public opinion when determining whether to include directly elected mayors in future devolution deals.”

[See full version here](#)

From the top, this means:

1. Labour currently has no actual policy for reforming the way Britain works at fundamental level and will only get around to examining this and how to extend democracy locally, regionally and nationally at some point through their term in office if they are fortunate enough to win the general election and form Government.
2. Under a Labour government, devolution in England would be inferior to devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland because whereas responsibility for devolution in England would come under a Minister who in turn would come under a Secretary of State, devolution in each of the other countries would come directly under a Secretary of State. This would have the knock-on effect of rendering any devolution to Yorkshire inferior to that enjoyed by Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. Under a Labour government, any ‘devolution’ to Yorkshire would consist of a regional office acting as an interface between local government politicians and central government politicians with no accountability to the people unless the public choose to include a directly elected mayor.
4. Under a Labour government, there would be no scope for a directly elected parliament as an alternative to a directly elected mayor as a means of achieving accountability to the people.