UK's likely next PM unveils power shift plan

Andy Burnham has vowed to bring about the "biggest rebalancing of power our country has seen" in his first major policy speech since launching his bid to become prime minister



Jan 7, 1970: Born in Liverpool, UK

1984: Joins Labour Party

1991: Graduates from University of Cambridge with English degree. Starts work as journalist

1994: Gets first break in politics, working as researcher for Labour MP ***Tessa Jowell***

1998: Becomes special adviser to Culture Secretary ***Chris Smith***

2001: First elected to Parliament as MP for his hometown of Leigh, Greater Manchester

2005: Serves as junior minister under Prime Minister ***Tony Blair***

2007: Joins cabinet as chief secretary to the Treasury, and later culture secretary and health secretary, under ***Gordon Brown***

2009: After being heckled on 20th anniversary of ***Hillsborough disaster*** – stadium crush that killed 97 Liverpool fans in 1989 – Burnham raises issue in cabinet, contributing to launch of second inquiry

2010: Runs for Labour leadership after Brown's resignation but comes fourth out of five contenders. Makes second bid in 2015, losing to ***Jeremy Corbyn***

2017: Quits as MP to run for mayor of Greater Manchester, winning with more than 60% of vote. Earns praise during his tenure for transformation of region's transport system

2020: Stand-off with Conservative government during Covid pandemic helps earn him "King of the North" nickname

Jun 18, 2026: Burnham returns to Parliament after winning Makerfield by-election

Jun 22: Resignation of Prime Minister ***Keir Starmer*** paves way for potential Burnham premiership

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