

Jeremy Corbyn reaction to Scottish Labour leadership announcement

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, responding to the Scottish Labour leadership announcement, said:

"I would like to congratulate Richard Leonard on being elected the new leader of the Scottish Labour Party, and Anas Sarwar for his energetic campaign.

"After being written off time and again, the General Election showed that our Party is capturing the mood both in Scotland and across the rest of the UK.

"There is much to do to continue our party's revival in Scotland and many who still need to be persuaded to put their trust in the Labour Party. But Richard's campaign offered a challenge to the rigged system that has benefited a wealthy elite and showed how he will lead Scottish Labour to transform society. This can be a turning point in Scottish politics and our party will now come together, united to challenge Tory and SNP austerity that has held Scotland back.

"I am confident that under Richard's leadership, Labour will once again be a real force for change in Scotland. I look forward to campaigning with him in Scotland next week as we build a movement that will help our party win in Holyrood and Westminster, to transform our country for the many not the few."

Government should apologise to those affected by benefits pay out mistakes – Abrahams

Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on the news that mistakes in benefits claims could cost the taxpayer up to £500m, said:

"This is yet another example of the total failure of this Government to provide people with the support they need.

"From the chaotic introduction of Universal Credit to the quiet pushing back of the state pension age of 1950s women, it's been one disaster after another from the Department of Work and Pensions.

"The Government must act immediately to provide the support people are entitled to and apologise to all the people who have struggled to heat their

homes and put food on their table.”

[Feeble measures like this will not build the affordable homes the country needs – Healey](#)

John Healey MP, Shadow Housing Secretary, responding to reports that the Government is looking at giving councils limited additional flexibility to build new homes, said:

“Ministers tried tinkering with council borrowing rules four years ago and it hasn’t worked.

“Feeble measures like this will not build the affordable homes the country needs, or even make up for the nearly 200,000 council homes lost over the last seven years.

“Ministers should back Labour’s plan to let councils build by giving them the funding and full borrowing flexibility they need.”

[Quick-fire sale of Network Rail’s assets is shameful – Rachael Maskell](#)

Rachael Maskell MP, Labour’s Shadow Rail Minister, commenting on the announcement that Network Rail is to sell £1billion worth of public assets, said:

“This quick-fire sale of Network Rail’s assets is a shameful attempt by the Tories to plug a gap in the company’s cash flow by sacrificing its capital assets. Selling-off the family silver to compensate for a budgetary shortfall is the completely wrong approach.

“Flogging assets doesn’t solve the underlying problems with our railways: a fragmented, privatised railway system that drives up costs and a Government which squanders money through a failure to plan investment.

“The Government should instead prioritise improving Network Rail’s efficiency and ensuring necessary funding is delivered.”

Government ditch promised youth policy statement – Cat Smith

Cat Smith MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Voter Engagement and Youth Affairs, commenting on the Government's decision to ditch their promised youth policy statement, said:

"The General Election should have served as a wakeup call to a Conservative Party that has ignored young people for years, but this decision shows the Tories continue to treat young people as an afterthought.

"This indifference has real effects; figures for poverty, material deprivation and unemployment, all show young people are suffering the most under the Tories' austerity agenda.

"Labour in Government will prioritise young people's needs and ensure that youth policy and practice is coordinated across Government."