<u>Greens react to plans for new nuclear</u> plant at Sizewell

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Responding to news that EDF will build <u>a new nuclear power plant at Sizewell</u> <u>at an estimated cost of over £14bn</u>, co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay MP, said:

"Nuclear power is hugely expensive and far too slow to come on line. The only thing delivered by EDF so far at Hinkley Point in Somerset is overspend and delay. Electricity was promised by 2017 with a price tag of £22bn but this has mushroomed to 40bn and Hinkley is still producing no power.

"The money being spent on this nuclear gamble would be far better spent on insulating and retrofitting millions of homes, bringing down energy bills and keeping people warmer and more comfortable. We should also be investing in genuinely green power such as fitting millions of solar panels to roofs and in innovative technologies like tidal power. All this would create many more jobs than nuclear ever will."

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Greens denounce Labour's Spending Review as 'spreadsheet Britain' and call for a 'hopeful vision for a better future'

Ahead of Wednesday's Spending Review, Adrian Ramsay MP, co-leader of the Green Party, accused the government of lacking a vision for a better future. He said: "This Spending Review shows that the government knows the cost of everything but the value of nothing."

He went on to say:

"This looks like a spreadsheet Britain approach, leading the country into deliberate decline, when we need a hopeful vision for a better future.

"Austerity has meant our hospitals, schools and transport services have sustained real terms budget cuts, and long-term capital investment will not

deliver fast enough to impact people's lives. <u>Millions of people are facing financial</u>, <u>health and housing insecurity</u> right now. The Spending Review will fail those children stuck in poverty today — children who need warm homes and enough to eat."

"We need to invest in a more secure future for everyone. Real security comes from people feeling warm and comfortable in their homes, valued in their communities and secure in the knowledge that climate action will safeguard the future for their children and grandchildren."

Ramsay said there should be a much stronger focus on building, providing and retrofitting social homes. He said:

"Rather than turning the screw further on councils which are already on their knees, the Chancellor must commit the billions that councils need to buy, build and design social housing instead of offering a blank cheque to developers to build executive homes that few can afford.

"We know this is what people want. A new YouGov survey commissioned by the Greens has found that people are three times more likely to want the Government to build more social housing than encouraging developers to build more private homes."

Ramsay also repeated calls for a fairer tax system to raise money and reverse chronic underspending in public services.

"A wealth tax of 1% on assets over £10 million and 2% on assets above £1 billion could raise £24 billion a year. Cutting support to disabled people while billionaires are gaining £35 million a day in wealth is indefensible. We are one of the wealthiest countries in the world — it's time the superrich paid up and for Labour to start taxing wealth fairly.

Adrian Ramsay MP concluded:

"From child poverty to climate breakdown, the challenges we face are not small — and neither should be our response. People want a government that invests in them, in their homes, in their services, in building a resilient future. Cuts don't create hope. Investment does. We need public services that are fit for purpose, homes that are warm and affordable, and a tax system that serves the many, not the wealthy few."

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Road victim support group pledges to

Share the Road To Zero

Road Victim Support Northern Ireland — Donegal (RVSNID) is the latest group to sign up to the Department for Infrastructure's 'Share the Road to Zero' campaign.

<u>Kimmins announces £ 590,000 road</u> <u>improvement scheme for A29 Armagh</u> <u>Road, Keady</u>

Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins has announced that a £590,000 carriageway resurfacing scheme on A29 Armagh Road Keady will commence on Monday 9 June 2025.

World first gonorrhoea vaccination programme approved for Northern Ireland

The Department of Health has approved the roll out of a targeted vaccination programme against gonorrhoea in Northern Ireland.