

Red text in this document highlighted where material had been added since the previous version of the pre-election monitoring document.

## Scottish Election 2016: pre-election monitoring

### Scottish Labour Party

*"In this election, Labour will offer the real change that Scotland wants and needs now"* – Kezia Dugdale

#### Political

- *"For me, education is the priority. Unless we can close the gap between the richest and the rest in our schools we will never create an economy that is fair to everybody."* [Kezia Dugdale, Daily Record, 25/01/2016]
- *"By common agreement it [John Swinney's last budget] was a budget that even George Osborne would have been proud of. Not only did it fail to bring an end to austerity, it piled on even more misery, particularly for future generations."* [Kezia Dugdale, Daily Record, 10/01/2016]
- *"The SNP want to cut APD, which means more money going back into the pockets of the richest few whilst working class families continue to lose out."* [Jackie Baillie, SLP website]
- *"There are now 152,000 fewer students in colleges than there were when the SNP came to power...The SNP's record on Further Education is nothing short of a disgrace."* [Iain Gray, SLP website]
- *"The SNP's solution to the problems with childcare in Scotland is to slash the budgets for childcare and local services. Only in the world of the SNP will that deliver a childcare revolution."* [Kezia Dugdale, Scottish Parliament debate, 05/01/2016]
- *"Rebuild the NHS to cope with old age not disease"* [Kezia Dugdale Any Questions 05/02/2016]
- *"There is a moral and economic case for halting education cuts"* [Kezia Dugdale, The Herald 10/02/16]
- *"I look at the fact that there are 220,000 children in Scotland affected by poverty and I desperately want to do something about it."* [Kezia Dugdale Daily Record, 29/02/16]
- *"Fair, progressive, redistributive taxes that will allow us to break from cuts and invest in future economic growth"* – [Kezia Dugdale speech, 29/02/16]
- *"People across the country recognise the problems in public services and those who can afford it are prepared to pay a little more"* [Jenny Marra, Question Time, 10/03/16]
- *"The tax powers we have mean the Scottish Parliament doesn't have to be a conveyor belt for more Tory austerity. If our politicians in Scotland are willing to take bold decisions then we don't have to put up with the cuts. We now have the powers that mean we can choose a different path from George Osborne."* [Kezia Dugdale, Daily Record, 14/03/16]
- *"We will end austerity in Scotland. This pledge will set simple fiscal principles for our parliament's new financial powers...It makes one guarantee to take a different path. So that between the Scottish Election in May and the next UK general election spending on*

*public services will rise in real terms.* [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]

## Policy

### **Taxation**

Multiple announcements in a Kezia Dugdale speech [29/02/16, [Scottish Labour Website](#)]:

- Increase the basic rate of income tax. No longer plan to introduce a rebate of £100 for individuals earning below £20,000 as UK Government plans to increase the personal allowance mean this is no longer necessary. [[BBC](#), 30/03/2016]
- Bring back the 50p top rate of tax to invest in education.
- Keeping the income tax higher rate threshold at the current level (rather than adopting the UK Gov plans for increases).
- Oppose the abolition of Air Passenger Duty.
- Scrap the council tax and replace it with a property tax, a tourist tax and land value tax on vacant, economically inactive land. Under the proposals, properties worth £180,000 or less would be taxed £450, plus 0.35% of the property value. For properties worth more than this, the portion of the value above £180,000 would attract a rate of 0.9% of the property value. The maximum charge would be capped at £3,000, with a cap on year-on-year increases at 3%. [[BBC Website](#), 22/03/16]

### **Social Security**

Multiple announcements in a Kezia Dugdale speech [29/02/16, [Scottish Labour Website](#)]:

- For children leaving care to go to further education a full grant will be available
- Carer's Allowance will be paid at the same level as Job Seeker's Allowance
- Raise the sure start maternity Grant to £1,030
- Abolish the "bedroom tax" [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]

### **Education**

- Primary schools – set up a 'Fair Start Fund': £1,000 for every primary pupil from a deprived background, directly to their head teacher to close the gap between richest and the rest. Paid for by increasing top rate of tax to 50p for those earning £150,000+ a year. Additional information - the fund follows children from poorer families to school so that every school has an attainment fund equal to its needs. [[Scottish Labour Party Website](#), 30/03/2016]
- Protection of education budget
- The introduction of a graduate diploma to help children at school who struggle with traditional exams at school to assist with university admissions [The Herald, 01/03/16]. The diploma would recognise work experience, vocational courses and exams [The Scotsman, 09/03/16].
- *"Every Child should have the best possible start in life, their educational achievement should not be based on how much their parents earn"* [Iain Gray [Sunday Herald](#), 13/03/2016]
- Review the Named Person Legislation [[The Herald](#), 31/03/2016]

### **Health & Social Care**

- Care Workers – the living wage for all care workers.
- Faster GP appointments – within 48hrs as part of an additional £500 million pound increased NHS spending. [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]
- Faster Cancer diagnosis - if a GP suspects cancer an appointment will be made and results will be received in a fortnight. [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]

- Early intervention in Mental health by investing in Educational Psychologists in schools and community health practitioners. [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]
- Everyone is guaranteed an assessment and a care package within a week. [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]

### Housing

- Affordable Housing – build a minimum of 60,000 affordable homes over next 5 years. 45,000 of which will be council or housing association homes.
- First-time buyers – £3,000 towards a deposit for those who save £3,000 via a first-time buyer ISA (£6000 for a couple). By end of next Parliament, expect 17,200 first-time buyer purchases a year to benefit from the plan.

### Energy

- Will not allow fracking in Scotland [Scottish Labour Website, 03/03/2016]

### Sport

- Would repeal the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act [Scottish Labour Website, 02/03/2016]

### Transport

- A “smart ticket” to cover all transport services in Scotland- people will be able to use contactless payment by the end of the next parliament [[BBC News Website](#), 15/03/16]
- Regulation of bus services to protect unprofitable but important routes [[BBC News Website](#), 15/03/16]
- Keep Caledonian MacBrayne in public ownership [Labour Party Conference, [Kezia Dugdale speech](#), 19/03/16]

### Justice

- Restore the link between communities and local policing by strengthening local police committees and the link between them and the Scottish Police Authority and work to ensure that police are trained to deal with domestic violence & rape cases sensitively and the justice system enables victims to come forward [[The Sunday Herald Holyrood Hustings article](#), 3/4/16]

### Significant Dates

- 19 March – Scottish Labour Party Conference at Glasgow Science Centre.

### Analysis/ Commentary on policy commitments [name/ headline/ link]

#### Tax

- Alex Massie [New Statesman, 02/02/2016] [Scottish Labour, peering into the abyss, wake up and decide to do something](#)
- Brian Taylor [BBC, 02/02/2016] [A Penny rise is a taxing problem](#)
- Steven Daisley [STV, 02/02/2016] [Kezia Dugdale gets bold with risky pre-election tax move](#)
- David Eiser [University of Stirling Centre for constitutional change, 05/02/2016] [Scottish Labour's tax proposals: distributional consequences](#)
- Torsten Bell (Resolution Foundation, 05/02/2016] [Scottish Labour has a tax policy let the debate commence](#)
- Joan McAlpine [Daily Record, 17/02/2016] [Desperate Labour are left with no tax credit](#)
- David Clegg [Daily Record, 18/02/2016] [Labours Painful Polling & fiscal framework Fracas](#)

- [Magnus Gardham \[The Herald, 22/03/2016\] Every home in Scotland to be revalued under Labour's replacement for council tax](#)
- [Magnus Gardham \[The Herald, 30/03/2016\] Labour accused of breaking a promise to protect low paid workers from its planned income tax rise](#)
- [Douglas Fraser \[BBC News, 30/03/2016\] Holyrood 2016: Would a 50p tax rate lose or gain money for Scotland?](#)
- [Daily Record Leader \[31/03/2016\] Tax U-turn could cost Labour dearly and they only have themselves to blame](#)
- [Torcuil Crichton \[Daily Record 01/04/2016\] This is the tax election... but not as Labour wanted it](#)

### General

- [Alison Rowat \[The Herald, 18/03/2016\] The SNP is going nowhere but Kezia Dugdale's party is going nowhere fast](#)
- [\[Holyrood Magazine, 16/03/2016\] Kezia Dugdale on Tax, Elections and Jeremy Corbyn](#)
- [Magnus Gardham \[The Herald, 19/03/2016\] Shy labour voters key to parties fortunes](#)
- [Ian Macwhirter \[Sunday Herald, 20/03/2016\] The narcissism of small differences between will dominate this election campaign](#)
- [Bernard Ponsenby \[STV News, 21/03/2016\] Is Kezia Dugdale's job one that can actually be done?](#)
- [Brian Taylor \[BBC News, 19/03/2016\] Scottish Labour conference: Superheroes and villains](#)
- [Iain Macwhirter \(Sunday Herald 03.4.16 \) One thing you can always depend on is Labour shooting themselves in the foot](#)
- [Tom Gordon \(Sunday Herald 03/04/16\) Kez in Chaos as the SNP smell blood](#)
- [Magnus Gardham \(The Herald 04/04/16\)](#)
- [Labour tries to focus on tax as Salmond says Dugdale made case for second independence referendum](#)
- [Paul Ross \(The Times 03/04/16\) Saturday interview p32-33 "Kezia Dugdale I've got a plan, if people want to gossip behind the scenes bash on](#)
- [Alex Massie \(The Sunday Times 03/04/16\) p23 The Tories could sink the Labour ship for Sturgeon](#)
- [Mary Riddell \(The Fabian Review 01/04/16\) The long road: interview with Kezia Dugdale](#)
- [Alex Massie \(The Times 05/04/16\) p25 We are not the Tories is no longer enough.](#)
- [Andrew Whitaker 8-out-of-10-scots-would-benefit-from-labour-tax-plans](#)

### Strategy Unit

(Updated 5 April 2016)