

The SNP leadership campaigners need to get grips with t...

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I made my first intervention in the SNP leadership debate in [the columns of The National newspaper](#) in an article published late yesterday.

In it I summarise exactly why the funding mechanisms of Westminster and Holyrood are so different, explaining in the process that Westminster is a currency creator and Holyrood is a currency user. The result is, as I argue:

All the economic odds are stacked against any Scottish government succeeding with the task that it is being given by Westminster under the current devolution settlement.

Westminster politicians like to claim Scotland has problems because the SNP is failing. That is not true. As I, again, say:

The political reality of the moment is that whoever becomes the SNP leader will have to work inside this incredibly rigged political system that has been set up by Westminster to ensure that whoever runs Scotland is bound to fail.

So what needs to be done? I suggest:

This means that just as much as [a new SNP leader] needs to have a convincing plan for independence, they also need to have a convincing plan for devolution. It may even be that one is not possible without the other: Convincing the people of Scotland that its problems can be managed by a government committed to independence would now seem to be a pre-requisite of success for independence.

I then set out what a five point demand for empowering Scotland to make devolution work might be.

It is my hope that amongst the political scrapping serious debate on the Scottish economy might get a look in during this leadership campaign. I will be watching.