Andrew Marr - We've been hearing a lot about the rise and rise of the SNP, promises of further devolution for Scotland, English votes for English laws ... but what about Wales? Is it getting left behind, in the constitutional carve-up? I'm joined by the leader of Plaid Cymru - the Welsh national party

Leanne Wood - Good morning.

Andrew Marr – You’re still working on your Welsh I gather. How’s it going?
Leanne Wood – It’s going well thank you, yes.

Andrew Marr – The SNP have been roaring ahead as we’ve said in Scotland. The same has not been happening to Plaid in Wales. Why do you think that is?

Leanne Wood – There are a number of reasons for that. I think the fact that they’ve had a referendum recently has put the politics of Scotland at the heart of the agenda. But there’s an opportunity for people in Wales to do that in May’s election I think. There’s every chance that there could be a hung Parliament in May and plaid Cymru could hold the balance of power so this question of home rule and parity of Scotland in terms of powers and finance for Wales has a chance to be put on the agenda now.

Andrew Marr – So if the chips fall for you that way and you have your little lever there how would you use it? What would you really want from a hung parliament for Wales?

Leanne Wood – Well there are two clear areas – it’s parity with Scotland in terms of finance and powers and also an end to...

Andrew Marr – So a full Welsh Parliament? Welsh home rule?

Leanne Wood – Yes, well for so long we’ve been behind in Wales. We’ve settled for third-rate devolution and there’s absolutely no reason why Wales shouldn’t have the going rate for devolution as other parts of the UK are having too. There’s also the question of finance. In Scotland if we were to be funded the same per head in relation to England as they get in Scotland there would be an additional £1.2bn into the Welsh economy which would make a great difference in terms of cuts and investment into public services which is much needed in Wales.

Andrew Marr – Now in terms of parties of the sort-of-left if I can put it that way there’s the Greens, there’s the SNP and there’s yourselves Are you going to be working as a kind of bloc in the next Parliament?

Leanne Wood – We’ve already said that we’re going to cooperate after the next election. We’re working together on common areas where we can now. It’s not an electoral pact but it does make sense for us to work together to end the Conservative government and also end the austerity politics – the
ideologically driven austerity politics – which is causing so much damage for so many of our communities.

Andrew Marr – And what for you is the end point? I remember in the old days of Daffey Ellis Thomas and so forth there’s a lot of talk about Plaid not really being a nationalist party, being a post-nationalist party and not wanting full independence. Is that still the case?

Leanne Wood - We want Wales to become an independent country, there’s no doubt about that, but there are many things that we have to do in order to get to that point. Our economy is way behind, we have to make sure that we close the financial gap that exists between Wales and other parts of the UK but we can get there and to be honest the only way that we will get a strong economy is through becoming an independent nation.

Andrew Marr - Earlier on in the programme I mentioned Trident. Now, we have heard suggestions from the First Minister in Wales that if the Scots kicked the Trident submarines out they might arrive in Wales. How would you feel about that?

Leanne Wood – Well, the First Minister of Wales made that statement in a fit of pique during the Scottish referendum; there’s no appetite for Trident to be placed in Wales. In fact I think most people that I speak to want to see Trident replacement ended. There’s a potential hundred billion pounds that could be spent on people as opposed to weapons of mass destruction and Plaid Cymru will be advocating that case ahead of this election.

Andrew Marr - Well that’s fairly clear. Now on the final big subject confronting you as a party, you are not just not doing terribly well, you’ve got 3 MPs at the moment and the polls show that Ukip of all parties is way ahead of you in Wales. What has it been about Plaid Cymru which has failed to attract more people in Wales, because the comparison with Scotland is obvious and rather embarrassing I would have thought?

Leanne Wood - Well if you just look at the question of media coverage, the parties of the right that you’ve just talked about get a lot of media coverage. The Scottish parties have had a lot of coverage in Scotland, they’ve got more of an independent media there. In Wales we don’t have an independent media
and we struggle to get coverage on a UK level so this is a great opportunity now this morning to speak to people.

Andrew Marr - Well here you are on an all-UK sofa. Leanne Wood thank you very much indeed for joining us.