



Glasgow City Council

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee**

**Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth, Kevin Rush**

**Contact: Kit England Ext: 74613**

**Item 1**

**17th January 2023**

**WAYS OF WORKING WITH JUST TRANSITION WORKING GROUP**

**Purpose of Report:**

To Inform members of the work of the Just Transition Working Group and secure agreement for two observers from the Net Zero & Climate Progress Monitoring Committee.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- Agree that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Net Zero Committee attend the Just Transition Working Group as observers.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

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## **1 Introduction and Context**

- 1.1 Following a refresh of the Committee structures in May 2022, there was agreement to establish both a Net Zero Committee and a Just Transition Working Group.
- 1.2 Initial work to develop Terms of Reference and supporting workplans has concluded, and an informal conversation on ways of working has taken place. This report sets out the outcomes of these discussions and a proposed working relationship between the two groups.

## **2 Just Transition Working Group – Work to date and focus**

- 2.1 The early focus of the Working Group has been on defining the overall ambition and remit through a Terms of Reference, before bounding the possible areas of enquiry to ensure a work plan that is actionable and realistic. This has been supported by a secretariat of officers from the Green Economy Unit with support from Sustainability.
- 2.2 The focus of the workplan is on producing a short, actionable report by May 2023 which takes stock of the overall state of the transition to a net zero, climate resilient economy and recommends ways in which the transition can be made fairer and more equitable. This will be used to inform the development of the city's proposed Just Transition Implementation Plan.
- 2.3 Given the global nature of the transition, the work will look at the state of play internationally, as well as inviting presentations from other stakeholders. Whilst the public sector will have a key role to play in guiding the transition, businesses and civil society will be equally important. It will therefore explore their current roles, and the extent to which they are adequately considering the different distributional, procedural and intergenerational elements of climate justice. Finally, the work will also seek to leverage insights from previous, positive and negative, large-scale transitions within Glasgow.
- 2.4 The Terms of Reference and draft work plan for the Working Group is set out in Appendix A, but may change as the Group progresses the development of the report.

## **3 Relationship to net zero committee and ways of working**

- 3.1 Following the development of the Working Group's draft workplan and terms of reference, the Chairs of the Net Zero & Climate Progress Monitoring Committee and the Working Group met to discuss the relationship between the two, and how they should interface, identify synergies and managing duplication.
- 3.2 Both agreed a collaborative approach would be beneficial to ensure learning informs the Council's policy development process, as well as building the knowledge, skills and capacity of members, but acknowledged a degree of independence is also required to allow for scrutiny and challenge of the Council's own approach as part of the enquiry, and to give confidence to

partners that the Group wants to hear the voices of those who may also feel the Council could do more to ensure the transition is just and equitable.

- 3.3 To this end, the Chair of the working group agreed to invite the Chair and Vice Chair of the Net Zero Committee to sit on the working group as observers. They would attend the meetings of the working group, as well as project or site visits where applicable. This would enable them to listen closely to all discussions and develop a deeper background understanding of the Just Transition in preparation for considering the recommendations made by the final report. This will also ensure that the emerging findings and recommendations are informing the wider Policy Development process in the Council, ahead of a formal set of recommendations in the final report.
- 3.4 To support this approach, lead officers for both committees would continue to collaborate closely on the draft work plans, with regular meetings to ensure synergies and alignment.

#### **4 Policy and Resource Implications**

##### **Resource Implications:**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Financial:</i>   | There are no financial implications resulting from this report.   |
| <i>Legal:</i>       | There are no legal implications resulting from this report.   |
| <i>Personnel:</i>   | There are no personnel implications resulting from this report – all work will be undertaken within existing resources. |
| <i>Procurement:</i> |   |

**Council Strategic Plan:** The Working Group will provide insights and recommendations which feed into all four of the City's Grand Challenges:

- Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities
- Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow
- Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities

Similarly, the cross-cutting nature of economic and climate transition planning means it will permeate across a large number of missions. The final recommendations of the Working Group will consider which of the missions are of most relevance.

## **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

Yes. Climate Change has a disproportionate impact on different groups – such as women, older people, young people, or people from Black and Minority Ethnic Background.

The Working Group will make tangible recommendations about to how to ensure that an increased proportion of disadvantaged groups are able to access employment or training associated with the transition to a net zero, climate resilient economy. (Outcome 1). It will also ensure that they are more regularly and systematically involved in their design (Outcome 2), both through recommendations but also from the working group's decision to offer to co-opt a range of community and faith groups onto the working group itself.

It will also explore the potential implications of the transition on Glasgow City Council as an employer, helping ensure the Council continues to create and celebrate a diverse and inclusive workplace (Outcome 7).

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive impact – The recommendations will identify a series of actions that could increase equality across the City, by ensuring the transition to a net zero, climate resilient economy is designed and delivered in a way which involves those with protected characteristics, and explicitly considers and addresses the impact of the transition and of climate change itself.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

The proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage by identifying how those citizens and workers who have contributed least to the climate crisis, but are most vulnerable, can have a significant role in the development and delivery of policies, programmes and projects to address them.

## **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate*

Yes. The working group will support development of action 11, which commits the City Council to establishing Just Transition

*Plan actions? Please specify:*

Implementation Plan. The working group's final report will identify key areas for such a plan in future.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

There are no direct emissions resulting from this proposal. Similarly, the proposal will not significantly increase climate risks or climate adaptation.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

Yes. The transition to a net zero, climate resilient economy over the next 8 years is so large, it will only be achieved if such a shift is fair and equitable, and done with the consent and involvement of citizens.

Whilst the proposal will not deliver direct emissions reduction, the work is a key lever of change, informing governance and ways of working that will help enable transformational change.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

There are no potential privacy and data protection impacts arising as a result of this report.

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N

### **3 Recommendations**

#### **3.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Agree that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Net Zero Committee attend the Just Transition Working Group as observers.

## **Appendix A – Terms of Reference – Just Transition Working Group**



### **Economic Development**

#### **Discussion Note for Just Transition Working Group**

**7th October 2022**

**Report by Kit England – Group Manager, Green Economy**

### **Proposed Terms of Reference and ways of working**

1. Action 11 of the Glasgow Climate Plan, adopted by the Council in June 2021, committed the Council to establishing a local equivalent of Scotland's Just Transition Commission. Following the election of the new Council, members have now proposed the creation of a Just Transition Working Group to support efforts to ensure that progress towards the city's aims to be net zero and climate resilient is fair and equitable. This note sets out proposed Terms of Reference for the working group, ahead of a first meeting.
2. The idea of a just transition is fundamentally about how a shift from an economy and society dominated by fossil fuel extraction and vulnerability to climate change can be managed equitably to one where net zero emissions and climate resilience are delivered. This is clearly related to jobs and livelihoods, but also includes the justice dimensions of areas such as food, energy and transport, which are both affected by climate change and are part of a more sustainable city eco-system.
3. The costs and benefits of the transition will be distributed across different areas of the city, and across income brackets, and will be influenced by who has a say in the process of developing and implementing policies, programmes and projects.
4. Therefore the scope of a Just Transition covers both the outcomes of the process (i.e. is a low carbon, climate resilient economy fairer and more equitable?), but also the process by which we get there – for example whether those particularly affected by the transition can shape how it happens.
5. The overlapping and often reinforcing crises of climate, Covid and the cost of living are having a significant impact on Glaswegians. Glasgow has endured previous unjust transitions and still bears the social and environmental scars of its difficult shift from an economy and society based on heavy industry. Equally this experience can help the city to reflect on how to avoid history repeating itself and how to build resilience as it looks to make a just transition from a post-industrial to a post-carbon city.
6. In this light, the four key messages of the Scottish Just Transition Commission, which can help to guide local work, are:
  - To pursue an orderly, managed transition to net zero that creates opportunities for people.

- To equip people with the skills and education they need in order to benefit from this transition to net zero.
- To empower and invigorate communities and strengthen local economies.
- To share the benefits of climate action widely and ensure that any costs are distributed on the basis of ability to pay.

7. The proposed objectives of the Working Group are to:

- To proactively support the implementation of the recommendations of the national Just Transition Commission within the City.
- To consider how best to protect Glaswegians, businesses and the agencies which serve them in the transition to a net zero, climate-resilient economy and society and to maximise opportunities for them, particularly for the most vulnerable, deprived or affected.
- To explore and offer advice on managing the co-benefits, synergies, tradeoffs between mitigation and adaptation, and between climate action and wider economic change.
- To collate and assess existing work being undertaken or planned on this agenda by the Council and partners.
- To better understand the private sector's plans for the transition and their associated implications for Glasgow.
- To review the development and implementation of new and existing GCC mitigation and adaptation policies, programmes and activities.
- To explore the failures and shortfalls associated with previous large-scale economic transitions in Glasgow and beyond and identify and document the lessons for the climate-driven transition.
- To ensure the Council has the appropriate procedures, processes and mechanisms to appropriately consider the justice and equity implications.
- To enhance the evidence base on the implications of, and opportunities for ensuring a just transition for the City, including potentially through a call for evidence to local stakeholders and citizens.
- To build Councillors' awareness and understanding of private sector climate risk disclosure frameworks and transition plans, as well as climate justice and equity issues.
- To coordinate engagement with the Scottish Just Transition Commission and other national and UK stakeholders.
- To review, consider, learn from, and adopt good practice from other cities and local authorities from the UK and internationally.
- To consider how the powers which city and regional agencies currently possess can be better used to achieve the above and where further asks need to be made of national government.
- To ensure that all its work embraces the diversity of Glaswegian lives and ensures that no one is left behind.

*Membership*

8. The group currently has representation from all four political groups on the Council. The membership is set out below:

| <b>Membership</b>     | <b>Role</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Cllr Declan Blench    | Member      |
| Cllr Graham Campbell  | Member      |
| Cllr Christina Cannon | Member      |
| Cllr Stephen Docherty | Member      |
| Cllr Elaine Gallagher | Chair       |
| Cllr Matt Kerr        | Member      |

9. Whilst the public sector has a key role to play, the reality is that much of the transition will be the result of action from and changes in the wider economy. Therefore, it is suggested the group consider the possibility of co-opting or regularly inviting some or all of the following organisations/individuals to be members of the group.

- Members of the current or former Scottish Just Transition Commission
- Representatives from the Local Employability Partnership
- Scottish Trade Unions Council or local Trade union branches (e.g. Glasgow Union)
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
- Skills Development Scotland
- Large employers subject to, or already using, private sector climate risk disclosure frameworks.
- Chair of the Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy and Private Sector Hub
- Centre for Climate Justice

#### *Secretariat support and officer attendance*

10. It is proposed that the work of the group is supported by a core secretariat of officers from across Economic Development, Sustainability, Corporate governance and committee services to lead day-to-day activities, such as drafting minutes, managing agendas, and leading on the drafting of reports. Kit England, the group manager for Green Economy would be the nominated officer lead, and would be responsible for ensuring the group is able to meet its stated objectives.

11. In addition, the officer lead would seek to ensure relevant officers from across Economic Development, Sustainability and the wider council were in attendance to provide constructive input to the group's work, and build awareness, engagement and capabilities to support a Just Transition in future.

#### *Ways of working*

12. It is proposed that the group meet once every two months, and develops a clear workplan aligned with the wider Council Strategic Plan, and planned UK, Scottish and city policy developments and wider relevant initiatives. The Economic Development team can provide the secretariat for the group, ensuring appropriate documentation, forward planning and taking forward work in between meetings.



13. A key focus in the near term will also need to be on identifying the ways of working and interactions with other policy development committees and ongoing officer work, ensuring that the group adds value to the existing work of the Council in the development of transition planning.
14. The group may wish to consider the merits of varying its meeting venues (and potentially make them part of site visits) in order to reach out to the city and engage with citizens around their lived experience of transformation and social justice. This would also allow the group to develop an approach to evidence sessions from partners and the public if it is minded to do so.
15. It is further proposed that the working group should aim to present a report with its interim findings and recommendations to a Council committee by no later than the summer recess of 2023.

#### *Next steps*

16. Members of the working group are asked to consider if they feel the terms of reference are appropriate – in particular if they have any specific objectives if they wish to add to this level of representation, especially if there are key voices missing. They are also asked to think about ways of working for the group which can help it to ensure a positive dialogue within itself and with others.