

**Item 3**

**27th February 2024**



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee**

**Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth**

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**Just Transition Working Group implementation plan**

**Purpose of Report:**

To present an implementation plan for the report and recommendations of the Just Transition Working Group.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- discuss the attached implementation plan for the Just Transition Working Group's report;
- note the proposal for reporting back on progress alongside the annual review of the Glasgow Climate Plan; and
- note the GREEN2DEMO Horizon funding bid.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The [report and recommendations](#) of a cross-party Just Transition Working Group were previously considered by the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee at its meeting of 8 August 2023. These were subsequently approved by the City Administration Committee on 14 September 2023, with a commitment to bring an implementation plan back to committee in the new year.
- 1.2 The working group's report made 18 recommendations, which span a range of issues key to both the idea and practices of managing a Just Transition for Glasgow's workers, businesses and communities. They look to address the vital element of a fair and equitable shift from economic activity focused on fossil fuels as well as other areas such as mobility justice, food and place.
- 1.3 Previous reports to the committee on this agenda have acknowledged that the Council is one organisation amongst many in the city, which will need to work together if a just transition is to be achieved. Nevertheless, it is also clear that the Council has a leadership and convening role for the city in virtue of its democratic mandate and statutory position. Work on the attached implementation plan has therefore initially been focused on building commitment and developing actions with Council family services, whilst also looking to grow a broader sense of collective ownership for this approach amongst other partners. In this light, the existing membership and structures of the Sustainable Glasgow collaboration will be central to such wider ambition.

## **2.0 Developing the implementation plan**

- 2.1 The Just Transition Working Group decided to shape its discussions around four key lines of enquiry, which related to:
  - Governmental just transition planning approaches
  - Private sector preparation
  - The role of citizens, trade unions and communities
  - Council actions to enable the transition.
- 2.2 The working group heard views from a range of stakeholders on these areas and those who were invited to participate in its discussions are noted in the group's report. These connections have been followed up in order to see where there might be opportunities to make common cause together and where common ground for action might also be found. Members will see reference in the appended plan to these partners and also get a sense of the direction for which such relationships need to be mobilised in order to gain further traction and deliver progress.
- 2.3 The principal focus for developing an implementation plan has been through work with those Council services which relate to the material put forward in the 18 recommendations. Some of these linkages are relatively clear and have already led to some of those recommendations being taken forward – a good example being the publication of a [Just Transition Skills Action Plan](#), which was

approved at a meeting of the City Administration Committee on 16 November 2023. Others need further consideration and the action plan seeks therefore to promote their development and set a timescale in which tangible progress needs to be made.

- 2.4 One of the key elements of the working group's report was the recognition that the term 'Just Transition' is generally not in wide use either amongst Glaswegians or the organisations which serve them. This is an area which the working group had already identified as needing greater attention and development, particularly if meaningful public debate is to be promoted and meaningful actions to support it co-created with local people. The focus of discussion at the City Administration Committee reflected members' strong interest in seeing more done to engage communities on this and to give them agency over the key decisions significantly affecting their future.
- 2.5 Embedding the principles of a Just Transition in the way the Council engages with communities, through its Communities Team, both on a neighbourhood basis and as communities of interest, will be an important response to this challenge. Such work will also fit with other activities that draw on external partner resources, such as the Thriving Cities Initiative and a project on community engagement funded through the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance.
- 2.5 Previous reports on other cross-cutting policy areas have attempted to influence the many and varied strategies and action plans which have been produced in the city. The Just Transition report also looked to enhance the focus of these existing approaches, informed by the principles of justice and equity as our economy and society move away from fossil fuels. At the same time, members of the Just Transition Working Group stated the importance of tangible outputs through clearly directing the city's own conception of where it wants to get to in the coming years and the values by which such a journey is guided.
- 2.6 Finally, there was consensus that, whilst the city's painful experience of de-industrialisation in the latter part of the twentieth century produced an unjust transition - the effects of which remain with Glaswegian communities to this day - there is now a much more propitious opportunity to manage and direct the city's next transition to a post-carbon future. This element could also offer a strong and positive narrative theme for Glasgow's celebration next year of the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burgh status and a sense of a new path being charted with its communities.

### **3.0 Next steps**

- 3.1 The appended plan takes each of the Working Group's recommendations and draws out:
  - An initial survey of where existing work is being undertaken and how it both relates to the Just Transition and could have an enhanced focus on it.
  - Which partners need particularly to be involved in such work – and where lead service responsibility lies for implementing and/or co-ordinating action on each recommendation.

- What progress will look like – whilst acknowledging that this needs greater community engagement alongside ongoing discussion with key delivery partners.
- An assessment of the likely timescale in which tangible progress can expect to be made on each recommendation.

An appendix to this report provides a schematic overview of the outputs of this work and can be read as a summary of the full plan itself.

- 3.2 The initial principle on which work with current partnership arrangements will be progressed is that no additional groups should be formed unless there is a clear and compelling case to do so. This will allow the Council and partners to test out the extent to which such arrangements can better accommodate a Just Transition approach and support delivery of it. Correspondingly, this approach will also connect closely to activities already underway to develop indicators and assess progress towards a more sustainable and equitable Glasgow through the Thriving Cities Initiative, for instance, and the City Portrait.
- 3.4 The Just Transition implementation plan aligns strongly with the existing Glasgow Climate Plan and should be seen as delivering on one of its key commitments (Action 11). It will make sense to ensure that the reporting and scrutiny processes for them are in cycle and also fit with the Council's mandatory climate change reporting to the Scottish Government.
- 3.5 In this light, it is proposed that an update on progress towards the Just Transition Working Group's recommendations should be brought to the Net Zero Committee alongside the annual review of the Climate Plan, which will be due later this year. The plan also proposes an annual Just Transition summit with partners and communities, hosted by the Leader of the Council in collaboration with the City Convener and chair of the Working Group, which is intended to provide a public forum for both debating progress and setting priorities. In the meantime, the Just Transition work will continue to be presented to and developed through key Council structures, such as the Climate & Sustainability Board, and with other city partners through arrangements such as the Sustainable Glasgow partnership.

#### **4.0 GREEN2DEMO Horizon bid**

- 4.1 An initial means of following up on the key issue of developing governance and participation in the Just Transition has emerged in the light of the return of the United Kingdom to the EU Horizon programme. Through the Council's close working relationship with ICLEI, an invitation to join a consortium bid to the Horizon call on the role and functioning of public administrations in democratic systems has been received. Key partners include Fraunhofer ISI (coordinator), University College London, Austrian Institute for Technology, Copenhagen Business School, Polytechnic University Valencia, ICLEI Europe, and DEMOS Helsinki.
- 4.2 The Council would be eligible for FELLOW city status and funding of 50,000 Euros to support work over the next two years as a partner in this project. It is

focused on the sustainability agenda in response to the European Commission call for evidence-based innovations and public policy responses to the challenge of enhancing political participation and civic engagement. This approach gives an opportunity for the Council to build on its current work around the Just Transition agenda and particularly to draw on links with the Centre for Civic Innovation and policy connections to the city's Open Government Programme.

- 4.3 A proposal to focus activities on the Just Transition and citizen engagement has been submitted to ICLEI for inclusion in the overall Horizon bid with partners. This bid is in itself a good early example of how the Just Transition agenda is influencing the Council's approach to policy development and funding opportunities. The outcome of the bid is expected to be known in the next six months and a report to the City Administration Committee to approve receipt of funding will be presented in the event of its being successful, with updates on such work included in the annual reporting to the Net Zero Committee.

## 5.0 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* There are no immediate financial implications from the proposals in this report for the Council.

*Legal:* There are no immediate legal implications arising from the proposals in this report for the Council.

*Personnel:* Actions relating to the proposals in this report will be undertaken using existing staff resources.

*Procurement:* There are no immediate procurement issues relating to the proposals in this report.

**Council Strategic Plan:** This work underpins Grand Challenge 3 of the Strategic Plan on fighting the climate emergency in a just transition to net zero.

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25* The activities described in the appended report are informed by the work which the Council is undertaking on a just transition and associated equalities analyses. Further work will be undertaken on the equality aspects of each of the report's recommendations, as well as seeking to introduce a climate justice

perspective to the city's existing equality agenda.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* The Council's approach to this agenda has the potential to create decent jobs and support social justice in mobility, energy and quality of life.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.* This work is supported by the approach of the recently published Just Transition Skills Action Plan.

### **Climate impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* The work noted in this report both contributes to and is informed by the key aims of the Climate Plan.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* This report looks to set a framework for informing the city's decarbonisation ambitions through a social justice lens and therefore support a range of positive climate impacts.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* Yes, the Just Transition approach is a principal contributor to the realisation of the city's net zero target.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:** This report has no impacts upon privacy or data protection.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

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- note the GREEN2DEMO Horizon funding bid.