



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee

Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth

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Item 5

12th November 2024

Annual update on the Just Transition implementation plan

Purpose of Report:

To present an update to committee on work towards progressing the implementation plan of the Just Transition Working Group.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- discuss the attached update on the implementation plan for the Just Transition Working Group's recommendations;
- note that an update report on the Just Transition Skills Action Plan will be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

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 initially 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 policy committee therefore considered [a set of proposals](#) for implementing the working group's 18 recommendations at its meeting of 27 February 2024. It was noted that an update on progress towards these would be presented to the committee, to be scheduled alongside the annual review of the Glasgow Climate Plan – acknowledging that the Just Transition work is both a key commitment in the Plan itself and a means of informing the city's overall approach to the net zero and climate resilience agenda.
- 1.3 In this light, the appended update notes actions which have been undertaken by Council family services and partners in support of each of the 18 recommendations which were made by the Just Transition Working Group.

2.0 Progress towards the implementation plan

- 2.1 The Just Transition agenda principally looks to enhance existing policies and activities to ensure that they are informed by the values of justice and equity as the city's economy and society move away from fossil fuels. The approach to the implementation plan has both sought to influence such policies as well as determine where a more applied focus needs to be placed and additional work undertaken.
- 2.2 A significant priority over the past months has been on engagement with Glaswegian communities to gauge their own sense of what a just transition looks like and to support their own agency in determining how a just future will be brought about. This responds to debate at both the Net Zero and City Administration Committees on this agenda and the view expressed by elected members that more needs to be done to make it meaningful to local people. There has therefore been a significant element of work under recommendations 10 and 11 of the plan, harnessing new funding opportunities, work with partners, and looking at innovative methods of connecting with communities.
- 2.3 A range of activities has been undertaken with Glaswegian communities, drawing particularly on the Council's links to global discussions on the Just Transition. These have brought in external funding support as well as a wealth of experience from other places to inform approaches across the city. They have also drawn on key local assets, such as the Centre for Civic Innovation within the Council and Centre for Climate Justice at Glasgow Caledonian University. Prominent examples of this include:

- A programme of activities with local communities delivered through Glasgow Life's artists-in-residence and supported by the Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which has sought to explore climate issues with residents through creative and cultural means.
- A project with the Centre for Climate Justice and Village Storytelling Centre, which has been funded through the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance and aligned with work also being supported through the C40 network for the Thriving Cities Initiative. This has supported the City Change Makers programme in two wards and offers a potential model for further work.
- Focused work with young people through a Youth Climate Action Fund established by Bloomberg Philanthropies,
- Enhancing a just transition perspective in the community engagement elements of the Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, particularly through the activities led through commissioned architectural and design practices.
- Further work with other cities and agencies on the climate justice agenda through a forthcoming EU Horizon programme.

2.4 Similarly, one of the main strands of the Just Transition work has been [a Skills Action Plan](#), which was one of the first recommendations delivered from the working group report and agreed at City Administration Committee on 16 November 2023. This has continued to be a key feature of engagement with key regional partners on skills and training, particularly through the Local Employability Partnership (which includes national government, colleges, and the third and business sectors).

2.5 A tangible illustration of the ways in which this agenda is influencing the partnerships across the city is given by the recent announcement of a jointly funded PhD on climate just financing, supported through the Council and Glasgow Caledonian University. The three-year project will address a critical knowledge gap in the city and will provide insights that can support Glasgow's most vulnerable communities. It is expected to launch in February 2025 and the research will also align with Glasgow's Social Enterprise Action Plan and contribute to the development of practical tools and recommendations for sustainable urban development.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 Work to support the further implementation of the Just Transition Working Group's recommendations will continue across services of the Council family and particularly through the structures of the Sustainable Glasgow collaboration with other city partners. This will inform future committee reports through the lens of these recommendations and also be subject to further annual reporting alongside the Glasgow Climate Plan.

3.2 The jobs and skills agenda has a clear and strong significance for Glaswegian families and communities in ensuring a just transition and giving a tangible sense of the benefits of a greener economy. It is therefore proposed that an update report focused solely on the Just Transition Skills Action Plan be presented to a meeting of the committee in the new year.

- 3.3 The Council will also continue to learn from its participation in global networks and how other cities are seeking to manage a Just Transition with and for their local communities and businesses. Collaborative efforts between cities and within international organisations is a key feature of the legacy which Glasgow has leveraged from its host city status for COP26 and also offers further potential routes for external funding opportunities.
- 3.4 It was previously noted that this agenda can help to inform the narrative of the Glasgow 850 commemoration next year with a strong message of where the city and its people see themselves going over the coming decades. This gives an opportunity to take forward a proposal in the Just Transition report for the Council to convene a summit with local communities and third sector organisations to build further momentum and consider what progress might look like.
- 3.5 Members of the Net Zero Committee are asked to consider the appended update and to highlight where they should particularly wish to see further progress being made.

4.0 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 the Glasgow Climate Plan 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 in particular by the approach of the 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?

The Just Transition approach is a principal element in the realisation of the city's net zero target.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

This report has no impacts upon privacy or data protection.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is asked to:

- discuss the attached update on the implementation plan for the Just Transition Working Group's recommendations;
- note that an update report on the Just Transition Skills Action Plan will be presented to a future meeting of the committee.