



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee**

**Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth**

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**Item 2**

**8th August 2023**

**Just Transition Working Group report and recommendations**

**Purpose of Report:**

This report presents an update on the work of the Just Transition Working Group and its report.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- discuss the report of the Just Transition Working Group and its recommendations;
- refer the report to the City Administration Committee for approval; and
- agree to receive a further report and action plan for this work at a future meeting.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members of the committee have previously considered a [report](#) at their meeting of 17 January 2023, which outlined the scope of a cross-party Just Transition Working Group. The establishment of such a group was a commitment made in the Glasgow Climate Plan. It also formed a key element of Glasgow's message to the world and to itself as host city for COP26, which was and continues to be that a just transition for workers, businesses and communities must go alongside the building of a post-carbon city.
- 1.2 The committee noted that 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 equitably. The Scottish Just Transition Commission, for instance, has stated the importance of an 'orderly and managed' transition to net zero. Historically, however, Glasgow's experience of major transitions has been of disorderly and unmanaged change. De-industrialisation in particular resulted in mass unemployment and economic decline, and the city still bears the social and environmental scars of the abrupt and poorly managed shift from an economy and society based on heavy industry.
- 1.3 In this light, a Just Transition Working Group was convened, with a view to presenting its recommendations to committee by the end of the summer recess. These are appended to this report, along with a narrative from the group on its thinking and how it has reached its conclusions. The membership of the group, including co-optees, is also listed in the appended report.

## **2.0 The approach of the Just Transition Working Group**

- 2.1 The Just Transition Working Group had a six month period in which to consider evidence, gather views, and come to an initial set of conclusions. In this light, it agreed to focus on four key areas for discussion. These were:
  - 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 an appendix to the group's report. Whilst the idea of a just transition is very much understood in terms of jobs and livelihoods, it has also become clear through such discussion that it embraces 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.

- 2.3 The report notes the work of the Council and partners in growing a greener city, particularly through the Sustainable Glasgow collaboration and the actions stated in the Glasgow Climate Plan. It correspondingly also presents challenges and opportunities for the Council and wider city to consider and meet.
- 2.4 The working group undertook a survey of Glaswegians through the Council's consultation portal in order to get a better idea of levels of public understanding of what a just transition might mean and how people would wish to be engaged in work around it. The survey received 176 responses and a range of comments. The working group has acknowledged that, in the relatively short time available for its discussions, it has not been possible to gauge and engage with community views across the city on this agenda. In that light, it has directed a recommendation to partners on bringing a strong climate justice perspective into existing work with Glasgow's diverse communities and to ensure that their own lived experience both shapes activities and informs progress.
- 2.5 The report of the working group makes 18 recommendations, which are gathered under the four key areas of enquiry established by it. They relate to a range of partners and communities working together to grow a shared approach to achieving a just transition for the city and its people. An appendix to this cover report lists the 18 recommendations and further narrative in the main working group report develops a potential direction of travel for each of them.
- 2.6 Many of the recommendations fit with existing policy discussions and work in which the Council and its partners are currently engaged. They add an enhanced justice dimension to such activities, provide further momentum towards their delivery, and give a stronger sense of the cumulative potential of them for delivering a just transition with and for Glasgow's people.

### **3.0 Next steps**

- 3.1 The report and recommendations of the Just Transition Working Group are offered to the city as a whole, including businesses, communities and the institutions which serve them. The Council is one organisation amongst others in that respect, but it does also have an acknowledged convening role for the city and is in a formal leadership position for Community Planning, for instance. The recommendations of the attached report address key areas which are at the heart of a shared vision for a future Glasgow that builds justice alongside climate resilience. There is therefore an opportunity for the Council to engage with partners and communities to look afresh at how they might face such issues.
- 3.2 Some of the recommendations in the working group report have significant policy implications for the Council and other partners and some will need resourcing. These will therefore need to be given further consideration in order to inform a city response to them. They provide both a challenge and a stimulus to partners' thinking around organisational issues - and in particular

how to bring a strong justice element into all of their thinking about sustainability, climate resilience and net zero.

- 3.3 An action plan will need to be drawn up to take forward the recommendations in the attached report, should they be approved by the Council. This will require the participation of Council and family services, but also the engagement of wider Community Planning partners in the city. Progressing these recommendations will both connect them into and help to deliver on the wider ambitions of the Glasgow Climate Plan.
- 3.4 If approval is given by the City Administration Committee, then work will be undertaken on developing a framework to integrate the working group recommendations into existing policy and partnership approaches, together with detail on lead responsibilities, timeframes and resources. This will draw on the experience previously gained by the Council in addressing the recommendations of the cross-party Climate Emergency Working Group and subsequently informing the Glasgow Climate Plan through them. An initial point of contact within the Council for this will be the Climate and Sustainability Board, which draws together senior officers from across the organisation, as well as the Sustainable Glasgow Board, which similarly convenes key partners from across the city. Such arrangements will provide both a context and an impetus for implementing the just transition agenda and ensuring ownership for it across city services and agencies.
- 3.5 Members will wish to note that specific aspects of the report are already being progressed, such as a Just Transition Skills Action Plan, which will be reported to the appropriate committee in due course. In addition, the report's key focus aligns well with other local work being undertaken, such as the Thriving Cities Initiative with the C40 network, which is also being considered at this committee. A bid has also been submitted to the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance for funds to support local work on climate justice with communities, which will both enhance and benefit from the learning already begun acquired on this agenda by other peer cities in the network.
- 3.6 In the light of the above, it is proposed that members of the committee discuss the appended report and refer it to the City Administration Committee for approval. A further report on the implementation of the Just Transition Working Group's recommendations will then be presented to the Net Zero Committee at a future meeting.

#### **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 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 supports the approach of the forthcoming 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.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 The Committee is asked to:

- discuss the report of the Just Transition Working Group and its recommendations;
- refer the report to the City Administration Committee for approval; and
- agree to receive a further report and action plan for this work at a future meeting.

## Appendix: recommendations of the working group

<b>KLOE 1</b>	<b>Governmental Planning Approaches</b>
1	Ensure human rights and fair work principles are incorporated into net zero planning and actions
2	<b>Establish governance and ownership models for the transition</b>
3	Work with the Scottish Government to develop a concept for a 20-minute neighbourhood in Glasgow in the context of the just transition
4	Encourage the Scottish Government to prioritise funding for community led energy programmes
5	Lobby the Scottish and UK Governments to provide an Investment Fund which will support a just transition to net zero
<b>KLOE 2</b>	<b>Private Sector Preparation</b>
6	Work with the Transition Plan Taskforce to incorporate a justice element to transition plan guidance
7	Co-develop a targeted support offer which will help SMEs to decarbonise
8	Call on private sector companies to work with educational institutions to create an integrated green jobs pathway in the city
9	Set up a Just Transition Fund to finance activity in Glasgow
<b>KLOE 3</b>	<b>The Role of Citizens, Trade Unions and Communities</b>
10	Make the just transition less abstract to citizens by building a narrative about what a positive net zero future could look like
11	Carry out meaningful community engagement to empower citizens and increase public participation
<b>KLOE 4</b>	<b>Glasgow City Council Actions</b>
12	Adopt a more integrated approach to economic development and climate planning
13	Develop the circular economy and local supply chains through the lens of international climate justice
14	Investigate the development and use of Skills Passports
15	Create a process journey map for home retrofit and building decarbonisation activity
16	Investigate different financing models to accelerate energy efficiency building improvements in Glasgow
17	Focus on mobility justice to improve transport and connectivity in the city
18	Improve and increase access to community assets and green space