

## **Paper 1/6: Proposal for social research**

### **For agreement**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper proposes a programme of social research to gather the views of different groups in relation to the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The remit of the Just Transition Commission requires it to carry out meaningful engagement through the course of its work. The draft work plan outlines the various ways which the Commission may engage others in its work, including the commissioning of social research.

2.2 Externally-procured social research may provide a channel through which to gather views of people who would not necessarily be represented either at Commission meetings or events. The findings of this research would help the Commission to both fulfil its remit with regards to engagement, and also provide a valuable resource to draw on when developing its final recommendations.

2.3 The Annex to this paper includes extracts of the key parts of a draft specification outlining the proposed scope of this research. The specification has been left open from a methodology perspective, leaving tenderers to decide how best meet the aims of the research.

2.4 The specification may be refined further through input from Commissioners. The Commission may wish to consider the most appropriate method for coordinating this, to ensure the final specification accurately reflects their views and interests.

2.5 If Commissioners are content to take the proposed research forward the secretariat will lead on drafting a business case to submit to the Decarbonisation Division of the Scottish Government to secure appropriate funding for the project.

#### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 Commissioners are invited to approve the proposed programme of social research to gather the opinions of people in regards to the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

## **Annex – social research proposal**

1. Research aims: to explore the opinions of those who may be affected by Scotland's move to a carbon-neutral economy; to gather views, hopes and concerns from across Scotland, encompassing a representative range socio-economic groups. The outputs will inform the deliberations of the Just Transition Commission in considering its advice to Scottish Ministers about how to ensure fairness as Scotland is decarbonised.
2. The views of a wide-range of people will be solicited. Particular consideration will be given to ensuring voices from the following groups are heard:
  - a. Unionised and non-unionised workers;
  - b. People with different equalities characteristics, particularly age and gender;
  - c. People in different socioeconomic groups;
  - d. Rural, urban and islands communities;
  - e. Communities that may have already experienced transition away from employment in carbon-intensive industries.
3. Research questions will be refined at the start of the contract, but the research should have a primary focus on the opinions and concerns of people across Scotland on the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.
4. A range of research methods are likely to be needed to address the aims set out above. The methodology will be agreed in detail during the inception stage of the project based on outline proposals submitted by the successful tenderer.
5. The key deliverables will be:
  - a. An interim report of no more than 15 pages summarising progress against the research aims, along with an accompanying presentation to supporting officials mid-way through the contract.
  - b. A final report no longer than 50 pages summarising the research which will include an executive summary. The final structure, content and length of the report will be agreed with the Scottish Government prior to submission.
  - c. An oral presentation of the main findings to the Just Transition Commission.