

Paper 3/8: Draft outline for Commission report

For discussion

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper presents a revised structure for the report that the Commission will submit to Ministers in early 2021.

2. Background

2.1 At the second meeting of the Commission the secretariat shared a high-level draft structure for the report. It was requested an amended version be brought back based on feedback from Commissioners.

2.2 A copy of the revised draft structure is included in the Annex of this paper for consideration. This structure is for the main Commission report – it was agreed at meeting 2 that a shorter summary report would also be produced alongside this.

2.3 The draft structure is intended purely as a starting point for discussion among Commissioners on how they wish to proceed with the report.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Commissioners are asked to consider the draft structure included in the Annex to this paper, and consider how they wish to proceed with the report.

Annex – Draft outline of Commission report

1. Exec summary and recommendations

1.1 The remit and activities of the Commission over the last two years. Headline recommendations and conclusions reached during the course of the Commission's work.

2. Background and Introduction

2.1 A section will be needed at the start of the report explaining the context for the work of the Just Transition Commission. This would likely cover progress against climate change targets in Scotland and the 2045 target, along with a summary of just transition principles and their importance. It will also need to restate the Commission's remit and its activities over the last two years.

3. Lessons learned

3.1 Some specific examples of where Scotland has already experienced economic structural change. It could focus on what the impacts of change were, what could have been handled differently, along with an assessment of how relevant these examples are to what might happen in future in Scotland as a result of decarbonisation.

4. Quality of work

4.1 This section would take a closer look at the implications of decarbonisation of the Scottish economy on quality of work – meaning an assessment of both the quantity and quality of jobs that may result from decarbonisation of the economy.

4.2 Themes will be identified as the Commission progresses through its work. When considering this theme it is also likely that links will be made to the work of the Fair Work Convention.

5. Social inclusion

5.1 How progress towards meeting climate change targets could present both new opportunities for improving social inclusion, or lead to new inequalities developing. For example, the interaction between fuel poverty and the decarbonisation of heating could be covered in this section.

6. Regional cohesion

6.1 Identification of particular issues arising in relation to regional cohesion – meaning specific communities or groups that may stand to gain in relation to the transition, or that are at risk.

6.2 Examples of this may include the north east economy with its historic reliance on the oil and gas sector. Other relevant topics such as transport and the effect on rural communities of increased or decreased connectivity would also be of relevance in this chapter.

7. Economic development

7.1 An assessment of where the main opportunities are for the Scottish economy resulting from decarbonisation. This may take the form of particular industries where Scotland has a competitive advantage, and what actions are needed from Government to realise them.

8. Skills and education

8.1 The role of skills and education in realising the opportunities brought about by the move to a carbon-neutral economy.

9. Communication

9.1 A final theme confirmed at the first meeting was concerned with communication around the transition, and how to 'bring people along'. There are a number of possible activities that could inform this. It is likely that at least some of the stakeholder events will be targeted at people who have been affected by previous transitions or may be affected in future, while social research may also be undertaken to explore some of these issues in more detail.