

Paper 7/4 work planning

For discussion

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform discussion of the Commission's work plan for the rest of 2020, in light of developments relating to COVID-19. It contains a summary of the existing work plan for 2020, along with a summary of commitments made in the interim report.

2. Background

2.1 Since publication of the interim report the developing public health emergency and Government policy response inevitably affects the context for the Commission's work.

2.2 On April 1st it was announced that publication of the update to the Climate Change Plan would be delayed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Scottish Government have written to the Committee on Climate Change asking for advice on how the Climate Change Plan update can contribute to a 'green recovery for Scotland'.

2.3 The Scottish Government will also be keen to engage with the Commission around how your work can similarly inform developing plans.

2.4 COP26 originally scheduled to be held later in the year in Glasgow has also been postponed. A new date for 2021 will be set out in due course.

2.5 In light of these developments, there is a need to review the work plan for the year ahead and consider how it may need to be amended, and how the Commission wishes to engage with the Scottish Government around development of a green recovery from the current public health emergency.

3. Work Plan 2020

3.1 The current work plan states the Commission will strive to consider topics through the lens of the following themes: 1) Quality of Work, 2) Regional Cohesion, 3) Social Inclusion, 4) Economic Development, 5) Lessons Learned, 6) Communicating Change

3.2 The following meetings had previously been included in the work plan for 2020:

- June – innovation and delivery at scale
- September – skills and labour market/education
- TBC/end of the year – finalisation of report and recommendations

3.3 Alongside these meetings it was expected site visits/community engagement would be carried out, however, we will need to consider how to manage this given the restrictions on travel we now face. One possibility to fill in this gap would be to hold more online workshops/events, similar to the one held following on from the interim report.

4. Interim report commitments

4.1 The interim report referenced several areas the Commission planned on exploring in more detail in 2020. Again, either how these are delivered or whether they are still appropriate areas to focus on are up for discussion. A summary of these commitments are included below:

Transition planning (section 2 of report)

- *“Over the next year we will consider in more detail what we think transition plans should contain, who should be involved in creating them, and the appropriate mechanisms for delivery. We also like to resolve whether planning could, or should, in any way be made mandatory by Government (and the possible levers for implementing such an approach), or whether they should be implemented on a voluntary basis through collaborative engagement with stakeholders.”*

Engagement (section 3 of report)

- *“In the year ahead we will continue to travel across the country, engaging with businesses and communities through the course of our work. We hope this will help us understand better what people expect from Government to support them through the transition. We will also consider different models for social dialogue that could be repurposed towards this question.”*
- *“Our work plan for 2020 will include visits to a mixture of rural, urban and island settings which allow us to hear a range of perspectives. Through both this and consideration of existing models for social dialogue we expect to be in a position to make formal recommendations to Government by the time of our final report to Ministers in 2021.”*

Equity at the heart of climate change policies (section 4 of report)

- *“In the year ahead we will seek to build on engagement we have had with NHS Health Scotland. Through this we hope to both better understand the evidence base relating to climate change and equity, and also consider what tools could be applied to identify the interaction between equity and climate policies in practice. We hope this will represent a productive contribution that will help Government develop its own thinking on how these wider impacts are incorporated into decision-making.”*

Establishment of a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change in Scotland

- *“The creation of a Citizens Assembly is chance to inform the kind of dialogue that will have to take place in future. The remit of the Assembly should be established so as to reflect and support the Government’s desire to apply just transition principles to Scotland. We would welcome further engagement with the Assembly regarding how this might be done.”*

Promoting Scotland’s approach to just transition at COP26 and taking the opportunity to learn from others

- *“In the year ahead, we would like to work with the Scottish Government to develop plans to capitalise on the unique opportunity presented by COP 26.”*