Scotland’s 2020 Climate Group Submission to Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee

Introduction

1. Scotland’s 2020 Climate Group welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee’s scrutiny process around the Scottish Government’s draft budget for 2017/18. We have focused on the spending of the Enterprise Agencies.

2. Scotland’s 2020 Climate Group is an influential voice for business leaders to engage in creating a dynamic, sustainable Scottish economy that supports Scotland’s ambitions as a world-leading low carbon country. Our drive is towards an economy made strong because it’s sustainable, in turn supporting Scotland’s ambitions as a world-leading sustainable country.

Spending of the Enterprise Agencies

Simplify and focus the system for end users to encourage innovation, transformation

3. We support the Government’s ambition for Scotland to be a top ranking OECD country in productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability. As highlighted within the Enterprise and Skills Review Report (October 2016), there is a need to declutter and simplify the system for end users, to facilitate and enhance collaboration between sectors and to ensure that there is coherence between skills development opportunities, business needs and sustainability ambitions. We believe that the ultimate aim is to ensure that businesses are supported to innovate, transform and develop new business models as a way to expand and diversify, ultimately ensuring a long-lasting competitive edge and economic advantage.

Align spending and programmes with Scotland’s low carbon and circular economy ambitions

4. The environmental, social and economic imperative to radically reduce our impact on the planet has never been clearer and we applaud Scottish Government for its pioneering Climate Change legislation, achievements and ambition. There is a clear recognition that meeting future climate change targets will be a huge challenge – requiring decarbonisation of transport systems, buildings, land-use and energy.

5. In order to facilitate the shift across all sectors, low carbon must be an overarching strategic ambition and operational imperative weaved through public sector and government, including those of the Enterprise Agencies.

6. As well assisting in the transition to higher levels of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, Enterprise Agencies are key in enabling the adoption of a more circular economy. The circular economy offers enormous potential for reduced environmental impact¹ and economic growth². Enterprise Agencies, have a key role in enabling Scottish leadership in this area through

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¹ http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/CarbonImpactsOfTheCircularEconomy
² http://www.green---alliance.org.uk/circular---economy---scotland.php
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the investigation and adoption of new business models, practices and collaborations, in order to unlock the potential that the circular economy offers.

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