

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Tuesday, 10 February 2026  
6th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

## Climate Change Plan - Note by the Clerk

### Background

1. At today's meeting, Members will take evidence from a panel of witnesses regarding the Draft Climate Change Plan ("the Plan") in the context of public health.
2. This is the third of three planned meetings considering the Plan and its potential impact on public health as well as health and social care services. The Committee previously took evidence on the Plan at its meeting on [13 January 2026](#) and [20 January 2026](#).
3. The Net-Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is the lead Committee scrutinising the plan. A wide range of organisations [submitted responses to a call for views](#) on what should be in the draft CCP, which closed in September 2025, and the Net Zero Committee is conducting further engagement through the Your Priorities platform which ran until [25 January 2026](#).
4. Given the cross-cutting nature of the Plan, a number of other committees are involved in its scrutiny, with the approach being to share evidence and coordinate a response to the Scottish Government. Aside from this committee, other committees undertaking scrutiny of the Plan include:
  - [Economy and Fair Work Committee](#)
  - [Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee](#)
  - [Rural Affairs and Islands Committee](#)
  - [Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee](#)
  - [Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee](#)
  - [Criminal Justice Committee](#)
  - [Finance and Public Administration Committee](#)
  - [Public Audit Committee](#)

### Draft Climate Change Plan

5. The Scottish Government laid its [draft Climate Change Plan \(CCP\): 2026-2040](#) in the Scottish Parliament on 6 November 2025.
6. There is an online SPICe Hub on Climate Change which includes details of Scottish Parliament Committees' scrutiny of the draft Plan. [The Hub provides links to blogs relevant to the Plan](#) such as related policies, proposals and sector summaries.

7. A SPICe fellow also wrote a briefing on climate change and the impacts on health. This [includes a section on “co-benefits”](#).
8. The draft Plan is presented as being necessitated by, and having the purpose of addressing, the health risks associated with climate change:  
  
“Scotland’s changing climate also poses growing risks to households and businesses through physical damage to homes or assets, health and safety risks to employees and customers, disruption to supply chains, reduced access to finance or insurance coverage and increased risks to employee health and safety.”
9. The draft CCP identifies a number of health co-benefits from addressing climate change related to cleaner air, warmer homes, healthier food, health-promoting natural and built environments, high quality public services and fair work.
10. It is argued that, depending on CCP policy decisions, there could be benefits to outcomes in health and social care from coherent, monitored climate actions in the various domains and sectors covered by the draft Plan, resulting in improved population health and wellbeing.

## **Today’s meeting**

11. At today’s meeting, Members will take oral evidence from:

- Professor Sir Gregor Smith – Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- Philip McLean – Head of NHS Facilities and Environmental Sustainability
- Wendy Rayner – Lead NHS Scotland Circular Economy Adviser

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**February 2026**