

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

11th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Evidence session on the role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. In November 2021, the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee launched [an inquiry into the role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland](#).
2. This inquiry aims to seek out the main barriers at a local level to Scotland reaching its net zero targets. It will consider what practical steps councils are taking to break them down, in partnership with business, the voluntary sector, and local communities. It will also consider areas where change will be needed if councils are to play a full role in achieving the Scottish Government's goal of a net zero Scotland by 2045.
3. The inquiry is also considering:
 - what role the Scottish Government and its agencies can play in both supporting and, where necessary, challenging local government to work well with its partners to deliver net zero
 - how local government can play its part in ensuring a “just transition” to net zero, i.e. one that is economically and socially fair.
4. The Committee launched this inquiry with an open [Call for Views](#), posing 12 questions. It has taken evidence at four Committee meetings so far:
 - On 11 January, the Committee heard from representatives of five different local authorities with different net zero policies and priorities. [The Official Report for this meeting is here](#).
 - On 18 January, the Committee heard from the Sustainable Scotland Network and community two panels of cross-sectoral delivery partners on the route to net zero. [The Official Report for this meeting is here](#).

- On 25 January, the Committee heard from representatives of the business sector and bodies working in community development. [The Official Report for this meeting is here.](#)
- On 22 March, the Committee held two thematic panels to consider key issues arising in the evidence so far. First, there was a panel on the role of the planning system in helping reaching net zero. This was followed by a panel on skills and vocational training, to ensure we have a workforce equipped to meet the net zero challenge at local level. [The Official Report for this meeting will be accessible from here when published.](#)

Key themes at 29 March meeting

5. Following the closure of the Call for Views in late January, the Committee has taken stock of the evidence gathered so far and agreed key themes for the remainder of the inquiry. These include the importance of having a workforce with the right training, skills and capacity to help make the 2045 goal a reality, with policy areas such as decarbonising heat in buildings identified as posing steep challenges in the coming years, given the scale of the goals in this area.
6. The Committee will be hearing from panels of experts (as listed on the agenda) on 29 March:
 - [The Construction Industry Training Board](#)
 - [The Federation of Master Builders](#)
 - [Local Authority Building Standards Scotland](#)
 - [Scottish Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation.](#)
7. The Construction Industry Training Board have submitted a response to the Call for Views. [Their submission is available here.](#)

Next steps

8. Following Easter recess, the Committee will continue taking evidence on a number of different themes, hearing from various expert panels. It also expects to undertake fact-finding visits. It expects to report to the Parliament in autumn 2022.