



The role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

The 'role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland' consultation was released by the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee of the Scottish Parliament in order to gain insight into how councils are working with partners to deliver net zero targets.

The consultation closes on 21 January 2022. [Click here](#) to complete the consultation.

1.0 Background

The Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee are examining the progress of local government and its' cross-sectoral partners towards Scotland's net zero targets. They have released this consultation as part of their overall inquiry. They want to look at the barriers to achieving the interim and 2045 targets and to find out what steps councils are taking to break down these barriers alongside the private sector, voluntary sector and local communities.

They wish to hear from councils and a range of other stakeholders and plan to take formal evidence at 2022 committee meetings as well as make site visits in order to see examples of how councils are working with partners to deliver net zero targets.

2.0 Consultation Questions

The consultation questions are listed below:

Council planning, decision-making and capacity in relation to net zero

1. How effective are councils at strategic planning, budgeting, and making procurement decisions that align with net zero goals? If there are barriers, what are they?
2. What role can the local government planning system and local development plans do to help us reach net zero? Could the planning system do more?
3. What innovation, skills and capacity are needed in the local government workforce when it comes to making net zero achievable? Does that capacity exist or are there gaps?

Partnering to achieve net zero goals

1. How well do councils leverage in support and finance from the private sector for net zero delivery? Are City Region Deals being used effectively for this? What mechanisms or forums are there for sharing opportunities and good practice?
2. How well do councils partner with the voluntary sector and social enterprises to work towards net zero goals? Are there instances of good practice you can point to or areas where opportunities are being missed?
3. How well do councils involve local communities in decision-making on major net zero projects and how do they support community-led initiatives?

Role of the Scottish Government and its agencies

1. What is the Scottish Government doing to help the local government sector deliver on net zero goals? What, if anything, could it do more of to help the sector?
2. What is the role of enterprise agencies or other public bodies as enablers of joint working on net zero goals by local government and its cross-sectoral partners?

Local government work on net zero in particular areas

1. How are councils working with cross-sectoral partners to decarbonise heat in buildings and to ensure they have greater energy efficiency?
2. How are councils working with cross-sectoral partners to decarbonise transport (including encouraging active travel) and to improve air quality?
3. How are councils working with cross-sectoral partners to promote recycling and a “circular economy”?
4. How are councils working with cross-sectoral partners to use the natural environment (its “green infrastructure”) to achieve net zero targets?

3.0 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our members to respond to this consultation. APSE’s members in Scotland are at the forefront of delivering net-zero and it is important that we demonstrate to the members of the Scottish Parliament the value that local authorities and their partners are bringing to the process. APSE’s member councils have showcased a great deal of best practice associated with decarbonising heat in buildings, improving air quality, promoting a circular economy and utilising green infrastructure through many presentations at [advisory groups](#) and [seminars](#).

Since this consultation will inform the direction the committee will take in early 2022 with formal evidence at committee meetings and visits, it is vitally important that local authorities share this best practice with the Scottish Parliament to make sure

that they are aware of the full extent of the contributions local authorities are making to achieving net zero.

Reminder: APSE has set up a COVID-19 Information Hub to deal with frontline service issues as they arise, ensuring greater resilience and learning between each other during this difficult time. You can access this hub by clicking [here](#) and you can also join our WhatsApp Support Network by clicking [here](#).

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