

Environment and Economy Board Plan – 3 May 2024

Strategic Goal – A Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy no later than 2045				
Priority	Update		Connection to Strategic Goal	Comments
Digital Connectivity Lead: Robert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scottish Government made an announcement on 17 April about digital connectivity. The statement is available online here. The Quarterly Digital Connectivity Update event for Local Authority Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) was held on 29 February 2024. Unfortunately COSLA was not able to attend as we had planned but a detailed bulletin from this meeting was sent out to all local authorities on 21 March. This bulletin provided information on: R100; the shared rural network; 5G Innovation Regions Projects; green data centres among other updates. If members are interested on the detail in the bulletin we can circulate this round the Board. 	A	A Just Transition will require better and more equal access to high quality digital connectivity	The priority is marked amber due to challenges of delivering R100.
Climate Change Lead: Silke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See agenda item 5 	A	The core aim of the strategic goal is to reach net zero emissions in a just manner no later than 2045. We also need to adapt to climate change and protect	The priority is marked as amber as per the agreement at the

			communities from the worst effects of global warming.	September 2023 Board. This will be kept under review.
Biodiversity Policy Lead: Meg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSLA's response to Scottish Government's consultation on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was submitted in December and Scottish Government have subsequently indicated that they are looking to develop a number of actions set out in the Delivery Plan – COSLA officers will continue to engage with civil servants on this over the next few months. • Scottish Government have also launched a consultation into the '30 x 30' commitment within the SBS. COSLA is unlikely to submit an individual response to this but note that local authorities have also been invited to respond if appropriate. 	G	Human health, economic wellbeing and the natural environment are closely linked. Restoring biodiversity can help with a range of outcomes linked to a Just Transition.	This priority is marked as green for now as work has progressed satisfactorily
Heat and Energy Lead: Calum and Drew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COSLA response to the HIB Bill consultation was submitted following the Board's sign off. The consultation received a higher than average response rate and analysis of the findings is currently underway. Scottish Government expect to publish initial findings in July and will continue to engage with COSLA and the Board ahead of future draft legislation. 	G	Decarbonising heat is a core part of the Just Transition	The priority is marked green as work is progressing well with Scottish Government. It's possible that given technical and financial challenges this could become

				amber in the future.
Place, Planning and the Wellbeing Economy Lead: Calum and Robert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See agenda item 8 • COSLA have met with Scottish Government to hold initial discussion around the findings of the Community Wealth Building consultation, held in 2023. The consultation found a broad range of views from within Local Government and strong support for the creation of a duty for the advancement of Community Wealth Building approaches. COSLA will work with Scottish Government to explore how a duty could be a useful tool for Local Government and a report will be brought to the Board in due course to revisit our position ahead of future draft legislation. 	G	A shift to a net zero, wellbeing economy is core to the strategic goal.	
Europe, International & Post UK Exit from the EU Lead: Judith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March, COSLA participated in the 46th session of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Dedicated to 30 years of the organisation, there were debates on Ukraine, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate and UN Sustainable Development Goals. • COSLA member Cllr Heather Brannan-McVey was appointed Congress political spokesperson for Migration and Integration. • COSLA is currently looking ahead and preparing for the June Policy Committee of COSLA's European organisation CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions) in Brussels. • The date of the UK France Local Government Forum in Leeds and Bradford has been changed from October until 12/13 December. The date of the Congress meeting for national associations changed from June until 12/13 September. 	A	International treaties and regulations and the impact of the leaving the EU will all impact on the pace of transition to a net zero economy.	The priority is currently marked as amber as this reflects issues arising from the UK leaving the EU.
Transport		G	Transport is Scotland's largest source of	

Lead: Meg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SCOTS annual Conference is due to take place on 9 and 10 May 2024, with the Spokesperson due to deliver the opening address on 10 May The last meeting of the National Transport Strategy Board took place on 13 March and was chaired by Cllr Macgregor. Items discussed included Transport to Health, 20% reduction in car kms, the Net Zero Delivery Framework and an update on the Fair Fares Review. 		greenhouse gas emissions. It is a critical component of a Just transition.	
Waste and the Circular Economy Lead: Silke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See agenda item 6 and xx 7 	G	The elimination of waste and the smarter use of resource to improve recycling and reuse are critical to a Just Transition.	Currently the status is set to green, but there is a chance that it could change to amber in 2023 due to RIF and if the Circular Economy Bill does not develop as we would wish.

Priority Workstream	Update	Milestone	Desired Outcome	RAG
Circular Economy Bill	Stage 1 of the parliamentary process has been extended and we expect Stage 2 to commence in the spring.	Circular Economy bill is in the Scottish Parliament.	A Circular Economy Bill that enables improvement of Local Government service provision in	A

	<p>Negotiations with Scottish Government on potential amendments are under way.</p> <p>Please also refer to agenda item 6.</p>	<p>We are looking to achieve changes to the Bill in line with the position adopted by this Board in stage 2.</p> <p>Co-production (between Scottish and Local Government) of relevant new measures under the “Delivering Scotland's circular economy - route map to 2025 and beyond”</p>	<p>line with our interests, and for any new requirements placed on Local Government to be fully funded and co-produced.</p>	
Climate Change Plan	<p>Please see agenda item xx for an update on the Scottish Government announcement about climate targets on 18 April. This will have a bearing on this priority work stream. Further information will be shared with the Board at the meeting.</p>	<p>See update</p>	<p>See update</p>	A

RAG Key

Green

- COSLA's policy work with Government and/or other partners is proceeding with minimal issues
- Delivery of a policy or project is proceeding as planned with minimal delays
- Policy differences between COSLA and Scottish Government are minimal.

A Leader report may be required at the end for the final sign off on a policy, but will have minimal political implications.

Amber

- COSLA's policy work Government and/or other partners is facing significant issues
- Delivery of a policy or project is facing more significant delays which if not mitigated could have implications for local government
- There are larger policy differences between the COSLA and Government

A Leaders report may be needed to agree a COSLA position on how best to proceed. This may have political issues for some or all Local Authorities.

Red

- COSLA's policy work with Government and/or other partners is facing major issues which have implications for the whole of local government.
- Delivery of a policy or project has stalled or is off track in a major way, which has implications for local government.
- Policy differences are significant and have the potential to lead to a major disagreement between Governments.

An urgent report for Leaders is needed which may have major political implications for all Local Authorities.