

For the benefit of people across Scotland, COSLA expects a UK government, working with their devolved governments, to respect the democratic mandate of Councillors and put the **LOCAL** back into Local Government by:

## Delivering a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy

### ● What is it?

Scotland has an opportunity to lead the way on fair de-carbonisation of our society and economy. The just transition is about more than reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It's about transforming lives positively and addressing inequalities in society. A just transition recognises that not everyone has contributed equally to climate change and that the burden of climate change adaptation and mitigation should fall heavily on those least responsible. A just transition also does not abandon people or communities as the world changes but provides new opportunities to adapt and flourish.

### ● What needs to happen and why?

The world is warming fast and the impact of climate change on communities across the world is increasingly clear. The climate crisis demands strong cooperation between all Governments of the UK focused on delivering deep but orderly cuts in emissions in high carbon sectors.

Local Government has influence over up to 80% of emissions from an area, so COSLA believes that an investment in local government is an investment in emission reduction and leading the just transition. Our central ask of all Governments therefore is to focus on delivery, by prioritising resources, coordination and the improvement of skills, capacity and the data needed locally to better deliver climate action at scale. Councils will then be better able to make the right investments while also supporting people and communities to lead the change locally.

- **A just transition must also recognise that future climate change is inevitable** and that we must prepare for its future impact. In any crisis it is the poorest in society which will suffer the most, both in Scotland and across the world. We must, therefore, build our adaptation response with this in mind if we want to reduce inequalities while also building resilience in society and the economy. Local government has a vital role to play in ensuring that climate change does not stop local people from living well with fair access to training, jobs, transport, and local service. COSLA wants to work with all Governments across the UK to prepare for the multiple impacts of future climate change and deliver services that are person centred and sustainable.



Unlock our potential

