

MEETING WITH LINK “G6” NGOs

CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT ON PROPOSALS AND POLICIES

NOTES FROM DEBORAH LONG

David Wilson's responsibilities - energy and climate change across SG, as Programme Director.

Summary recap:

Post bill: assessment of policies required to deliver

The long list is the RPP document. This has been assessed at workshops in July, all of which were positive.

SCCS meetings and more detailed policy meetings are leading to discussions on needs.

Context: budget review

RPP is due end Sept. UK budget = Oct and Scottish budget – Nov.

Parallel processes: land use strategy

Low carbon strategy

Energy efficiency action plan

RPP.

These may all be presented as a publication in the same month. Date tbc.

Timescales:

Plan is to lay targets to parliament in early Sept, concurrent with RPP. RPP will be published irrespective of an order being agreed.

Ideal scenario: 60 days from RPP to go through multiple committees and for parliament to “have regard to”. With no annual targets agreed, the final stage of RPP cannot be made in parliament. Therefore draft targets do need to be set.

Once agreed, RPP could have later adjustments made.

RPP is not a plan and therefore changes could be made because it sets the broad parameters but will be flexible on delivery: RPP plans to guide the delivery of the targets. There is no detail on how policy packages will deliver – it will not list them, although the detail will be in the relevant policy.

Policies vs proposals

RPP is a set of both, in order to retain flexibility. It could become a rolling process to develop proposals as targets are met / changed / progress is made. As long as the targets are achievable, RPP sets out how to make them and a degree of iteration, through annual monitoring, enables a learning process to progress.

23 August meeting is a proposal from Struan Stevenson on targets: it will have a positive tone.

Scottish budget in Nov needs to be agreed by parliament in Feb. The 2011 – 2012 budget will decrease, probably by 10%, correspondingly lower than in England because of the 1 year delay.

The debate on the affordability of climate change is running alongside everything else, eg free care for the elderly etc. Climate change is included in the independent budget review. [Link is encouraged to develop further thinking on the implications.](#)

RPP: still working on wider cost effectiveness, ie savings to the general public as well as to public budgets. This includes for eg, the Stern effect (ie the costs of not doing it). Also the economic benefits of investing in green energy.

Meeting agreed that presentationally, RPP needs to score on cost effectiveness and not on initial costs.

Recession has given SG more room to manoeuvre in meeting targets.

Policies that have negative side effects (biofuels) or are taking the wrong direction (bypasses): these are not acknowledged in RPP.

Peat: welcome to its inclusion. RPP should contain a commitment to improvements however. The cost effectiveness in terms of match to SRDP for the EU should also be included, alongside the additional benefits of ecosystem services.

Aviation:

High speed rail should include short haul flights foregone. RPP does not include full analysis of knock-on benefits from other policy delivery mechanisms. Some negative policies are not necessarily reviewed because they are in progress, although ongoing changes resulting from the budget review will inevitably take place. RPP is not addressing negative policies but this may happen anyway because of the budget review.

Energy efficiency & low carbon conservation strategy:

Keen to try to move on. This is due from release at about the same time as RPP, with many of its core elements included in RPP.

There has been little thinking so far on the impacts of hypothecation but DW acknowledged that they will need to start thinking about it. Calman offers some opportunities, including the 10p income tax, aggregates and landfill, along with “other green taxes” which could include proposals in RPP, driven through central SG.

Public duty (starting on 1 January) on RPP:

Guidance to compel public bodies to set targets and outline what they will do. But the impact of duty delivery has not been factored into RPP.

Gabby wants to tease out the implications of RPP on all sectors including public bodies, general public etc. SG is exploring with COSLA, and identifying guideline trajectory for Las to reach / contribute to national targets.

Document structure:

Key messages: this is a partnership between govt and civic society, contributing to “economic growth” target. Low carbon Scotland is better than a high carbon Scotland. It will provide details on the value to individuals and communities and businesses. There will be an explanation on how it all fits together. SG is aiming for a single document that fulfils the need for action. It is aiming to list the benefits up front and include details by communicating to a public audience.

RD suggested that there should in that case be a statutory RPP for parliament in the technical language. DW suggested that the technical RPP could be part of the whole document package.

All sectors will be covered sequentially and tied into a low carbon strategy and low emissions strategy.

[LINK: if members have any example of technical reports with technical and accessible approaches, please send to Gabby for info.](#)

[Link: offered to support the govt to sell RPP if we like it. This should ideally include a heads up on PR etc so that we can support.](#) SG warned that delivery is likely to be less than we are expecting because of the budget.

[Agreed another G6 in early sept.](#)

DJL
11 August 2010