

Appendix 1: Commission recommended Just transition principles

Further to the recommendation that “A climate change assessment should be undertaken and taken into account for every CPCA and Council policy, development, procurement, action”, the Commission further recommend that the principles (shown in the box) should form part of this climate assessment tool and these should be adopted as principles for policy-making and strategy development:

Box 2: Principles of a Just Transition

- 1. Do no harm.** *Where possible, we must end activities which are actively doing harm to the environment, for example by emitting lots of greenhouse gases, destroying or degrading natural habitats. People and organisations should do as little harm as possible and aim to do good for the environment.*
- 2. Bold ideas and leadership.** *We need strong action, especially in the areas where our emissions are high, with funding to support climate initiatives. Local politicians, governments and businesses should be leading by example.*
- 3. Sustainability should be considered for everything.** *All aspects of decision making should consider emissions and sustainability, for example development in transport planning.*
- 4. Ensure clear, inclusive, meaningful communication** *with citizens, businesses and civil society across the region on climate change and related issues, including the scale of the crisis, up to date information about action locally, and guidance.*
- 5. Sustainable choices must be affordable, convenient and safe.** *Where possible, the best option for people should be the one that is most environmentally beneficial, and people must be provided with practical support to make good decisions.*
- 6. Local decision making.** *While retaining a joined-up approach across the region, decision making should be as local as possible with local accountability and responsibility. It should build on local strengths. People must be able to participate in decision making, design options and be part of the change.*
- 7. Protecting those on the lowest incomes.** *Those who are already struggling must not be burdened by climate action. Their needs must be taken into account, as should those of other groups who could be disadvantaged by changes, such as disabled people. The benefits of climate action must reach left behind communities.*
- 8. Embrace the natural world and environment.** *People want and benefit from access to nature, green space and biodiversity. We should respect and value nature and the environment as we are all interconnected. As well as monitoring our progress on climate action and emissions, we should measure and value not just economic metrics but include new ways of measuring the wellbeing of people and nature.*
- 9. Fairness locally, nationally and internationally.** *We must take into account the global consequences of local decisions, as well as impacts on the rest of the country.*
- 10. Everyone has a part to play.** *It is not just the responsibility of the local government but also of local people and businesses – we all need to get involved. People want to be enabled to be involved and it should be easy for them to play their part. Key to this is funding, support and facilitation for community-based climate initiatives and grassroots approaches to implementing climate policy.*
- 11. Polluters should pay.** *Companies and other organisations that create pollution locally should incur a financial cost (or demonstrate how they are investing to change practices, for example in farming). Payments should be used to subsidise and incentivise greener initiatives. People and organisations creating the most emissions and who have the most money and power should lead the way.*