



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

17th Meeting, 2009 (Session 3)

Tuesday 23 June 2009

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 2.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private.
2. **Scottish Government's road safety framework to 2020:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, and Climate Change, Jill Mulholland, Road Safety Team Leader, and Ian Robertson, Policy Officer, Road Safety Team, Scottish Government.

Not before 3.00 pm

3. **Forth Replacement Crossing:** The Committee will take evidence from—

John Howison, Project Director, Frazer Henderson, FRC Bill Manager, and Mike Glover, Commission Project Director, Forth Replacement Crossing Team, Transport Scotland;

Kathryn McKee, The BIG Partnership Account Director, BIG Partnership.

4. **Budget process 2010-11 (Stage 2):** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2010-11.
5. **Budget process 2010-11 - appointment of adviser:** The Committee will consider a list of candidates for the post of budget adviser.

TIC/S3/09/17/A

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5211
Email: steve.farrell@scottish.parliament.uk

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

[Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020](#)

Private paper

TIC/S3/09/17/1 (P)

Agenda item 3

Private paper

TIC/S3/09/17/2 (P)

Agenda item 4

Paper by the Clerk

[TIC/S3/09/17/3](#)

Agenda item 5

Private paper

TIC/S3/09/17/4 (P)

TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2009

BUDGET PROCESS: DRAFT BUDGET 2010-11

Background

1. This paper invites the Committee to discuss and agree the primary focus of its scrutiny of the Scottish Government's 2010-11 Draft Budget.
2. The Scottish Government is likely to publish its Draft Budget document in September 2009. It is expected that the Committee will be required to report on the budget to the Finance Committee by mid-November 2009.

Focus of budget scrutiny

3. In its scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2008-09, the Committee examined the Scottish Government's transport budget. Last year, the Committee primarily addressed the climate change elements of the Scottish Government budget with a particular emphasis on carbon assessment methodology.
4. The Committee's report to the Finance Committee encompassed the general impact of the Draft Budget 2009-10 on climate change and the development of the Scottish Government's carbon assessment tool, as well as revisiting issues on transport spending raised in the 2008-09 report.
5. In its report, the Committee expressed concern that the Draft Budget did not contain sufficient proposals to contribute to the climate change agenda. It also felt that the Scottish Government's climate change reduction targets were set too far into the future and its current proposed strategy for reducing annual emissions lacked urgency. The Committee therefore recommended that a system of carbon accountability be established in time for the draft budget 2010-11 and the Spending Review 2010, and that revisions be made to the 2009-10 budget to facilitate this.
6. The Committee considered that future budgets, and the next Spending Review, should reflect updated legislation on emissions targets. The Committee suggested that the next budget refocus its priorities on policies specifically designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to contribute to addressing climate change, advising that subsequent budgets be presented with the fullest possible details of how expenditure across all portfolios will contribute to the reduction of emissions.
7. Since the previous budget was considered, the Scottish Government has made significant progress in developing a carbon assessment tool which can be applied to the budget. Indeed, it is understood that work is sufficiently advanced to allow the assessment tool to be applied to the forthcoming 2010-11 Draft Budget.

8. It is suggested that there would be merit in the Committee again addressing the climate change element of the Draft Budget to allow analysis of the approach taken by the Scottish Government in applying the new carbon assessment mechanism to the process. This is a significant development and a continuation of the Committee's scrutiny of this element of the budget could be justified on this basis.

9. Alternatively, members may wish to consider a return to scrutiny of transport spending. Total transport spending is significant (over £2.4 billion in the 2009-10 budget) and there would be no shortage of issues to consider. These might include:

- Funding of Major Capital Projects: the Committee could consider how funding for the major transport projects set out in the STPR and NPF2, together with the Forth Replacement Crossing, expenditure for which will extend beyond the traditional three year spending review period, can be dealt with through the budget process
- Active Travel: the Committee could to investigate how the Scottish Government intends to fund the step-change in sustainable transport use that they wish to see in the next few years
- Concessionary Fares: the Committee could consider the financing of the scheme and its future financial viability

10. It is important to note that if the Committee agrees to focus on one particular element of the budget, this would not preclude the Committee from taking evidence and reporting on the other elements related to its remit during the budget process.

11. Further to a decision being taken by the Committee on the broad element of the budget to be considered, a paper suggesting a detailed approach to its budget scrutiny will be brought forward in September.

Action

12. The Committee is invited to consider and agree the primary focus of its scrutiny of the Scottish Government's 2010-11 budget.

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Communities Committee
Tel. 0131 348 5211
steve.farrell@scottish.parliament.uk