

Notice of Motion by Councillor Houghton – referred from Council meeting of 22 February 2023

1. That the Council notes the release of the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan by the Scottish Government on 10 January 2023.
2. Notes the statements on page 9 that “We want to see the fastest possible just transition for the oil and gas sector” and on pages, 14, 55, 97 that “there should be a presumption against new exploration for oil and gas”.
3. Recognises the reaction to the Plan from Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce who stated the presumption “has been met with complete disbelief in the North-East of Scotland” and that it is “a breath-taking betrayal of one of Scotland’s biggest industries” by the Scottish Government.
4. Believes that the thousands of workers in the oil and gas industry deserve the Council’s full support.
5. Agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to:
 - 5.1 write to the (a) Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport; and (b) Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work re-affirming Council’s view that there should be ongoing financial and training support for the oil and gas industry as part of a managed transition.
 - 5.2 invite the Cabinet Secretary for a meeting with Council Co-Leaders and Group Leaders in 2023 to discuss the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan fully.
 - 5.3 formally respond to the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan consultation by 4 April 2023, re-affirming the Council’s commitment to the oil and gas sector as part of the managed transition and noting the concerns of Council about the “breath-taking betrayal of one of Scotland’s biggest industries”.
 - 5.4 write to the Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work to ask the Scottish Government to collect and monitor renewable energy sector job creation data at a local authority level to ensure that a Just Transition is taking place in Aberdeen. With the North East region making up 30,000 (46%) of direct Scottish energy sector jobs, Aberdeen is more exposed to job losses from this energy transition, it is only morally right that there is an additional focus on renewable job creation for our region.