

**6 Please select the relevant chapter(s) of the CCPu that you wish to focus on in your submission.**

Chapter 2: Buildings, Chapter 5: Waste and the Circular Economy

**7 Please select the sector(s)/ areas of interest you wish to refer to in your submission.**

buildings, green recovery as it relates to this Committee's remit

**Your Views**

**2 Do you think the scale of reductions proposed within the sector(s) are appropriate and are the proposals and policies within the CCPu effective for meeting the annual emissions targets and contributing towards the 75% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2045 targets?**

Chapter 2 on Buildings, and the relevant section in Annexe A, focus almost entirely on the operational energy costs of buildings, primarily through the lens of energy efficiency to address fuel poverty. The plan does not take in to account the whole life carbon costs of buildings - maintaining all buildings in active use should be pre-requisite in addressing national targets for reducing our overall carbon consumption. While improved energy efficiency through retrofit is necessary, the plans omit the more fundamental need for all buildings to be maintained to wind and watertight standards before energy efficiency measures are applied. The Scottish House Condition Survey reveals that more than half of all Scottish Housing has disrepair to critical elements, rising to 64% of 1919-1944 housing, and 71% of pre-1919 housing - and yet the CCPu indicates no national funds or plans to specifically address building maintenance or repair.

It is worth noting that Scotland's proportion of pre-1946 housing stock - 52% - is the highest in the world and therefore the need for maintenance will only grow.

**4 To what extent do you think the proposals and policies reflect considerations about behaviour change and opportunities to secure wider benefits (e.g. environmental, financial and health) from specific interventions in particular sectors?**

There is no policy within the CCPu that addresses the need to improve building condition through regular maintenance. Until the need for buildings to be well maintained is addressed future governments will likely remain in a cycle of dealing with building neglect and decay that require carbon intensive interventions which would undermine the carbon targets set.

We would draw your attention to the National Planning Framework position statement that raises the need for carbon assessments in planning decisions, this should be embedded within the Climate Change Plan.

**5 Reflecting particularly on the CCPu sections on 'Green Recovery' and 'Cross-Sector issues', to which extent does the CCPu deliver a green recovery?**

Building maintenance and retrofit of energy efficiency measures are labour intensive activities that cannot be automated. Even once retrofit has been undertaken, annual maintenance of buildings to ensure their long life (hundreds of years) will ensure the embodied carbon within the building is utilised and the eternal need for maintenance would provide guaranteed employment for a significant part of the working population.

Building maintenance should be seen as a preventative measure to reducing the need for new build and preventing the creation of construction waste.

Building maintenance is more likely to be undertaken by SMEs and any increase in demand for would therefore stimulate local economies, which could be enhance by the local procurement of materials.

## Climate Change Plan Update (Local Government and Communities Committee)

Submitted: 12/January/2021

The key recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change included prioritising actions according to six principles for a resilient recovery. A programme of maintenance for our existing built environment, suitably adapting our built assets (across public and private ownership) supports all six of the principles.

Please note this information was submitted via the online portal and only the relevant policy information has been duplicated here for reference. *The numbers relate to the numbers present in the initial, and subsequent sections – and have been duplicated as in the form.*