

Statements of endorsement

Jan Webb, Professor of Sociology of Organisations, University of Edinburgh, and one of the 38 signatories, said:

‘Orthodox economic strategy aims to maximise GVA or GDP, and then to make some adjustments for fairness and environmental harms. A transformative strategy, fit for addressing climate emergency and major inequalities, has to direct all economic action to achieving a fair, and sustainable, society. This means all investment prioritises decent work, zero waste, bio-diversity and climate protection. I hope Scottish Government will respond promptly and constructively to the Transform Our Economy Alliance.’

Mike Danson Professor Emeritus of Enterprise Policy, Heriot-Watt University, said:

‘Following the reports over the last year by the Just Transition Commission, other Scottish Government Commissions and advisory groups, STUC, Commonweal, Business for Scotland, the Wellbeing Alliance, Citizens’ Assemblies, think tanks and others, Scotland is at a key decision point: we can pursue a strategy to create a fairer, greener, sustainable and inclusive Scotland by following their mutual and reinforcing recommendations for investment in our common futures. As well as being essential for the environment, it makes sense for our individual and collective wellbeing and indeed economy. Nurturing people, families and communities, welcoming refugees and asylum seekers, we can be a nation for hope and peace for our neighbours and fellow citizens of planet earth’.

Grace Blakeley, economics author and journalist, said:

‘In the wake of a pandemic that has had a devastating impact on the world economy, it is very encouraging to see civil society organisations working together in Scotland to develop a strategy for a fair and sustainable recovery. We cannot allow the recovery from the pandemic to be as weak and unfair as the recovery from the financial crisis of 2008, when the whole of the UK was forced to endure a brutal and ineffective austerity agenda that heaped the costs of the crisis onto working people. Instead, we must use this moment to build a fair, sustainable economy that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.’

Tim Jackson, Professor of Sustainable Development, University of Surrey and acclaimed author of Prosperity Without Growth backing the plan, said:

“With the forthcoming 10-year Strategy for Economic Transformation the Scottish Government has a unique opportunity to make Scotland a global example of an economy that is fit to address the challenges of the 21st century, delivering wellbeing for all within environmental limits.

To do that, the Strategy needs to put at its heart care for people and planet, it needs to build on meaningful participation of those at the sharp end of our economy, and it needs to put in place measures which will give priority to ensuring people's wellbeing rather than the pursuit of GDP growth for its own sake.”

The ten points proposed by the ‘Transform our Economy’ group offer a robust framework for building such a strategy. The Scottish Government would be well advised to take note.”