

Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum – Terms of Reference

Background

1. Section 4V of the [Net Zero Strategy](#) states that Government will “Build on existing engagement with local actors by establishing a Local Net Zero Forum.”
2. The first meeting for the Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum took place on 9 February 2023. This date was chosen so that the Department could seek feedback from local Councillors to help formulate a [response](#) to the Skidmore [Independent Review of Net Zero](#).
3. At the first meeting of the Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum, Lord Callanan and Councillor Jamieson (Chair of the Local Government Association at the time) agreed that it would be beneficial for the Ministerial Forum to be co-Chaired by the Minister and the Chair of the Local Government Association.

Purpose

4. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will oversee the work of the Official-level Local Net Zero Forum, providing steers on the major issues on which it wishes the Official-level Local Net Zero Forum to focus. The Official-level Local Net Zero Forum will then report back to the Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum on those issues.
5. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will strengthen engagement between central and local government on net zero at the political level, providing an opportunity for local Councillors to discuss net zero policy and delivery issues.

Membership

6. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will cover England only and be co-chaired by a Minister from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the Chair of the Local Government Association.
7. Ministers from other government Departments (including DLUHC, Defra and DfT) will be invited to attend. Other Ministers will be invited according to the agenda.
8. Local government membership will be at Councillor or Mayoral level, representing different local government organisations across the different tiers of local authorities. Representatives will be from a cross-section of political parties.

9. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will provide the secretariat with support from the Local Government Association.

Conflicts of interest

10. All members will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest before joining and in relation to any discussion item.

Remit

11. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will consider matters relating to local net zero.
12. Any member may propose issues for discussion.
13. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will not have formal decision-making powers. It will, however, provide an opportunity to raise issues which can then be reflected in existing respective decision-making processes within central and local government.

Ways of working

14. Meetings will be held twice a year, with a hybrid approach so that representatives can participate in person or remotely via MS Teams.
15. The Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum will set the direction to the Official-level Local Net Zero Forum. The Official-level Local Net Zero Forum will be responsible for reporting back to the Ministerial Forum.
16. All Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum members are expected to conduct discussions in a polite and respectful manner at all times.

Communications

17. After each meeting of the Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum a short note will be agreed between the Co-Chairs and published on gov.uk on the issues which were discussed. This will not contain attributed comments.

Update

18. The terms of reference will be reviewed, and if necessary, updated on an annual basis.