

Cllr Martin Kearney (Chair)
Mid Ulster District Council
Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

2 October 2019

Dear Chair of Mid Ulster District Council

Development of a Regional All Party Group on Climate Change

Earlier this year, Sustainable NI wrote out to councils requesting they nominate two elected members to sit on Northern Ireland's first cross-party working group on climate change / sustainable development.

You will be aware of the recent surge in public concern about the climate crisis. Belfast City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council have joined a list of councils and organisations to declare a climate emergency, and thousands of school children and adults took to the streets last month to call for real and meaningful action on the climate crisis.

In a time of crisis, all parties and agencies must come together to acknowledge the threat, realise the opportunities of a clean and green economy, and agree on a course of action to transition away from fossil fuels, and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate.

Sustainable NI currently provides a co-ordination role for cross-council collaboration on sustainable development and climate action. We run a vital Sustainable Development Forum, facilitating the sharing of ideas, inspiration and good practice between councils. We also run training courses for sustainability officers and provide tools and resources to support councils in their sustainability endeavours.

We are now setting up a cross-party group to instigate and inform the climate change discussion between MLAs, councillors, business leaders, NGOs and academics. The aim is to put climate change mitigation and adaptation and at the core of policy making and political activity in Northern Ireland.

In addition to an outstanding request for nominations to this Group, your Sustainable NI subscription is also overdue. Mid Ulster has been a valued partner of Sustainable NI for a number of years and the annual subscription fee of £5k represents excellent value for money in terms of the level of support you receive:

- Sustainable Development Forum – 4 meetings per year

- All Party Group on Climate Change – 4 meetings per year
- Lobbying and influencing national policy decisions
- Training and development courses
- Toolkits and resources
- Benchmarking and reporting
- 121 support / advice

I understand council budgets are under tremendous pressure, however I am sure you will agree that the benefits of taking action against climate change, and building a more sustainable future, far outweigh the costs.

If you would like any additional information or to discuss further please contact me on t: 07591172485 or e: nichola@sustainableni.org.

Sincerely,



Nichola Hughes

Director, Sustainable NI

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 7 November 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor Molloy, Chair Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Elattar, Forde (7.02 pm), Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake
Officers in Attendance	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR186/19 Apologies

Councillors Gildernew, Totten, Quinn.

PR187/19 Declaration of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR188/19 Chair's Business

No issues.

Matters for Decision

PR189/19 Working Group Meeting Group – Council Representation on Outside Bodies

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to ask for members consideration regarding the first meeting of the Working Group on Council on Outside Bodies held on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

Councillor Forde entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and