

## MINUTES

### All-Party Group on Climate Action

12 November 2025 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

[Recording](#)

**Chair:** John Blair MLA

**Minutes:** Nichola Hughes

**Members in attendance:** John Blair MLA, Cllr Roisin Lynch, Cllr Billy Webb, Cllr Andrew Wilson, Cllr Lauren Kendall, Cllr Kurtis Dickson, Cllr Deborah Coyle, Cllr Jay Burbank.

**Observers in attendance:** Adele Elliot, Alan McVicker, Amy Garbett, Amy Gallagher, Angus Kerr, Avril Harrison, Bronagh O’Kane, Catherine Wales, Catherine Hunter, Cathy Burns, Ciaran Fox, Claire Evans, Ciara Robinson, Daithi McKay, David Templeton, David Rooney, Debbie Caldwell, Declan Owens, Doire Finn, Donna, David Surplus, Eamonn Keaveney, Eimear Montague, Elaine, Emma Adair, Emma Aldridge, Francesca Di Palo, Gavin, Geraint Ellis, Grace McGurk, Gregory McChesney, Jacqueline O’Hagan, Jessica Kee, Joanne, John Woods, Johnny Stewart, Joseph Carter, Joy Hargie, Karl McGowan, Kathryn McFerran, Kirsty Pinkerton, Curtis Irvine, Leo Strawbridge, Lydia McKane, Maeve Gorman, Malachy Campbell, Mark McAdoo, Mura Quigly, Neal Sharkey, Nigel Downey, Nigel McCormick, Nuala Flood, Philip McGowan, Proinsias McCaughey, Robert Walsh, Roisin Hamill, Roisin McAllister, Rosemary Daly, S Adams, Simone Wilding, Stephen, Tom Lavery, Tony Giffen, Adrian Wardle, Zara Hamilton

**Apologies:** None

Total attendees: **74**

<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting admin</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	John Blair ( <b>JB</b> ), Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Chair’s Business</b>
	John Blair, the new Chair, expressed support for Minister Andrew Muir’s proposal to establish a non-departmental public body aimed at enhancing environmental governance in Northern Ireland.
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
	No apologies received.
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
	Minutes of the previous meeting on 17 September 2025 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Roisin Lynch, seconded by Cllr Billy Webb.

2	<b>The Planning System and Climate Change</b>
	<p>Katherine McFerran (<b>KMcF</b>) and Roisin McAllister (<b>RMcA</b>) provided insights into the role of regional planning frameworks and local development plans in promoting sustainable practices and meeting the net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal mandated by the Climate Change Act 2022.</p> <p>Both speakers acknowledged the challenges posed by outdated policies and lengthy planning processes, advocating for stronger collaboration across departments. <b>RMcA</b> advocated the use of whole life carbon assessments to drive measurable sustainability outcomes and highlighted the resourcing implications for local authorities.</p> <p>Participants discussed issues such as car dependency and land use pressures. Ciarán Fox raised a question about the timeline for policy consultations, while John Woods highlighted the need for a multifunctional approach to land use to address projected shortfalls. Geraint Ellis highlighted the need to take a preventative approach to ensure new development doesn't do further climate damage. Speakers recognised the importance of good design and supplementary planning guidance in promoting sustainability. Joseph Carter raised concerns about air pollution from domestic solid fuel burning which led to a discussion on the need for building regulation reform to encourage sustainable heating options.</p> <p>Useful resources shared in the group chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">London Plan Policy SI 2</a> setting out a requirement for development proposals to calculate and reduce WLC emissions, as part of a WLC assessment.</li> <li>• The case for reuse of existing buildings: A Maker's Guide to Building Our World by Thomas Heatherwick</li> <li>• The recently adopted <a href="#">Derry-Strabane LDP</a> includes policies for climate-change and sustainable development - ranging from renewable energy, SUDs, accessibly-located developments, tree-planting etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>JB</b> thanked <b>KMcF</b> and <b>RMcA</b> for their contributions.</p> <p>Presentation – view <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Recording – view <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
3	<b>Green Infrastructure Delivery in Planning</b>
	<p>Simone Wilding, Chief Planner at Bristol City Council, shared emerging best practice delivering climate and nature interventions through city planning functions.</p> <p><b>JB</b> thanked <b>SW</b> for her excellent presentation.</p>
4	<b>AOB</b>
	<p><b>JB</b> noted the proposed meeting dates for 2026 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 January 2026, 12:00 – 1:00pm</li> <li>• 11 March 2026, 12:00 – 1:00pm</li> <li>• 13 May 2026, 12:00 – 1:00pm</li> <li>• 16 September 2026, 12:00 – 1:00pm</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 November 2026, 12:00 – 1:00pm</li> </ul> <p><b>JB</b> noted that a workplan for the year ahead would be circulated for member feedback before the next meeting on 14 January.</p> <p>No further items of business.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Close</b>
	<p><b>JB</b> thanked the speakers and observers for attending the meeting. Meeting closed at 1.30pm.</p>