

## MINUTES

### All Party Group on Climate Action

4 October 2024 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

At: Virtual

**Chair:** Danny Donnelly MLA

**Minutes:** Nichola Hughes

**Members in attendance:** Danny Donnelly MLA (Chair), Dr Steve Aiken MLA, Kellie Armstrong MLA, John Blair MLA, Peter McReynolds MLA, Cllr Roisin Lynch, Cllr Martin McKeever, Cllr Donal McPeake, Cllr Robert Irvine, Cllr Caitlin Deeney

**In attendance:** Zara Rafeeq, Edel Rogan, Dr Laura Jenkins, Andy Frew, Maeve Brennan, Brandon Andrews, Jessica Kee, Nick Magee, Colin Jess, Aiden Stephens, Peter Heaney, Anne Ford, Declan Allison, Claire Duddy, Johnny Stewart, Darryn Mallon, Robert Walsh, Ian Gordon, Malachy Campbell, Tony Giffen, Scott Howes, Kevin McGarry, Claire Ellis, Ian Montgomery, Joanne McCollam, Karin Eyben, Catherine Blease, Gavin McGinty, A Steele, Caitlin Sullivan, Kirsty Pinkerton, Victoria Magreehan, Clare McKeown, Jane, Emmet McDonough-Brown, , Haldane Society, Declan Owens, Nichola Hughes.

**Apologies:** Harry Harvey MLA, Michelle McIlveen MLA, Philip McGuigan MLA, Gerry Carroll MLA, Cllr Lauren Kendall, Cllr Martin Reilly

Total attendees: **48**

<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting admin</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	Danny Donnelly ( <b>DD</b> ), Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A round of introductions of MLAs and Councillors followed.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Chair's Business</b>
	The Chair noted the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of an Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Consultation on a draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement (EPPS) for NI</li> <li>• The success of the group's site visit on 6<sup>th</sup> September to Lancaster Park, Northern Ireland's first Passivhaus development</li> <li>• Announcement by DAERA of funding of £450,000 to find solutions to the Lough Neagh crisis and community drop-in sessions being held in the coming weeks</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAERA statistics showing NI is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2032 which falls short of the target of a 48% reduction which is required by the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022</li> <li>• Minister Muir has confirmed will address the APG on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to discuss his intentions around the establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency for Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
	Apologies were recorded.
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
	<p>Minutes of the previous AGM on 6 October 2023 were adopted: Proposed by John Blair MLA; Seconded by Steve Aiken MLA.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting on 2 August 2024 were adopted: Proposed by Cllr Roisin Lynch; Seconded by Cllr Martin McKeever.</p> <p>No matters arising from the minutes of either of these meetings.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Election of Office Bearers</b>
	<p>John Blair took over as Chair, noting thanks to the Chair Danny Donnelly, Councillors involved in the APG and Sustainable NI for providing secretariat support.</p> <p><b>Nominations for Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danny Donnelly</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by: Steve Aiken; Seconded by Kellie Armstrong.  Danny Donnelly accepted the nomination. No other nominations. No dissent. Motion carried. <b>Danny Donnelly confirmed as Chair</b> of the APG on Climate Action.  Danny Donnelly took over as Chair for remaining business.</p> <p><b>Nominations for Vice-Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Steve Aiken</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by: Kellie Armstrong; Seconded by John Blair.  Steve Aiken accepted the nomination. No other nominations. No dissent. Motion carried. <b>Steve Aiken confirmed as Vice-Chair</b> of the APG on Climate Action.</p> <p><b>Nominations for Secretary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Blair</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by: Kellie Armstrong; Seconded by Steve Aiken.  John Blair accepted the nomination. No other nominations. No dissent. Motion carried. <b>John Blair confirmed as Secretary</b> of the APG on Climate Action.</p> <p>Treasurer: N/A (there is no budget associated with the APG).</p> <p>Sustainable NI will continue as secretariat, to support the administration of the All-Party Group on Climate Action. <b>DD</b> thanked Members for taking part in the election process.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Position Statement on Air Pollution in the UK</b>
	<p><b>DD</b> welcomed Zara Rafeeq, Laura Jenkins and Edel Rogan representing the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to discuss the impacts of air pollution on the health of children and young people and outline the Royal College’s recommendations for improvements to air quality.</p> <p>Q&amp;A followed.</p> <p>See <a href="#">presentation</a>. See <a href="#">recording</a>.</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Zara Rafeeq (<a href="mailto:Zara.Rafeeq@rcpch.ac.uk">Zara.Rafeeq@rcpch.ac.uk</a>)</p> <p><b>DD</b> thanked Zara and Laura for their excellent presentations. A discussion followed. The group identified an urgent need for increased monitoring of air quality across Northern Ireland, the introduction of a Clean Air Act UK and the introduction of a ‘Schools Streets Initiative’ which would include ‘No Idling Zones’ outside schools.</p> <p>Steve Aiken (<b>SA</b>) asked representatives from the Royal College to provide evidence that demonstrates that initiatives to address air quality have helped, for example the impact of the introduction of 20 mph restrictions in Wales.</p> <p><b>Action: Danny Donnelly</b> to ask Minister Muir to include an update on air quality in his next address to the All-Party Group on Climate Action in December.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Update on Update on General Comment No.26 (Children’s Rights and the Environment)</b>
	<p><b>DD</b> noted that he had held meetings with the NICCY Youth Panel to progress a motion on General Comment 26, discussed at the August APG meeting, and that Minister Muir has agreed to meet with NICCY to explore this further. Karin Eyben from NICCY thanked Danny for his support to date.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	<p><b>DD</b> noted that he would write to members to check availability for future meetings. <b>SA</b> noted that greater spacing between meetings would be favourable.</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Friday 6 December 2024, 12 – 1pm</p> <p>No further items of business.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Close</b>
	<b>DD</b> thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 12.47.