



Bob Doris MSP
Convener
Local Government and Communities Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14 March 2017

Dear Bob

Draft Climate Change Plan (CCP)

I am writing with regard to your Committee's report on the Scottish Government's Draft Climate Change Plan, to lend COSLA's support to your findings. It is welcome that some of the issues COSLA raised have been echoed more widely and picked up in the report. Some of these could well have been picked up before publication of the draft plan, had there been more opportunities for consultation and public debate.

COSLA therefore fully supports your call for an extension of the timeframe for parliamentary scrutiny, to ensure that the draft plan and associated policies are as robust as possible. We are happy to engage early in developing concrete policy proposals and actions in a wide range of areas (transport, planning, social and estate/property services, housing, waste, community engagement, economic development/local business and skills development to education).

We are, for example, working with local authorities and Scottish Government officials to establish how some of the more concrete policy proposals in the draft Energy Strategy, such as the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies, could be taken forward to enable substantial carbon savings and social gains around fuel poverty.

I am encouraged to see that the success of the current HEEPS Area Based Schemes was recognised and am keen to ensure that this is not lost in future programme design, such as in SEEP. In a climate of tight financial resources, it is essential that local authorities can respond flexibly and appropriately to local circumstances, build on the strength of local communities' initiatives and drive, and align resources at the local and national level, as long as these are set within and contribute to wider national targets.

I am committed to contributing further as and where this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Stephen,

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR:

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Cllr Stephen Hagan
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Cc Graeme Dey MSP, Convener, Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Committee