

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Sustainable Carlisle. We would like to draw your attention to the growing national calls for a plan to build back better as we edge our way forward in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic whilst under threat of serious recession.

Recently both the cross-party committee for business, energy and industrial strategy (BEIS) and that for the environment, the environment audit committee (EAC) have called for the government to align recovery plans with our green commitments. This comes at the same time as 350 business, union and religious leaders call for a fair and green recovery. These include ex civil servant heads, the Archbishop of Canterbury and other bishops across the country, the Confederation of British Industry and Chambers of Commerce, the heads of Oxfam, Shelter, Save the Children, the Tussell Trust, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and many more.

A recent YouGov poll suggests that 59% of the public want to see big to moderate changes in our economic system with only 6% wanting a return to our pre-pandemic ways. We have also seen a heightened awareness of the structural flaws in our system which result in inequality and injustice and a willingness to talk about and tackle these issues. Increases in community strength and neighbourliness in the face of the pandemic also add to this momentum.

It seems the time is now for planning for a new cleaner, greener and more sustainable future whilst tackling injustice and inequality.

We ask that you use your position as our local MP to support these calls both nationally and locally and to help us start a local conversation to develop a plan for our city and county.

We would like to see

- the building of economic resilience by applying net-zero tests to spending and taxation measures
- a local emphasis on community wealth building and increased local involvement in decision making
- increased investment in local clean, green, sustainable jobs in areas of energy production and insulation of homes and buildings thus relieving fuel poverty whilst cutting back on co2 emissions
- development of a plan to improve public transport and cut traffic thus protecting our health through cleaner air
- nature put on a path to recovery with the protection of biodiversity

We ask you to help us start this process and use your position to support these measures by first of all calling on the government to deliver on the energy efficiency funding for buildings promised in its last election manifesto and also to fight for a return of proper local council funding so badly affected by austerity cuts. Without such support our local efforts are only made more difficult.

We would like to suggest a digital meeting with you to discuss these issues and the best way forward. We recognise the great challenges involved and hope you can help bring together the necessary local stakeholders and initiate action.

Yours

Henry Goodwin

Sustainable Carlisle