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29 May 2020

Professor Benny Higgins FRSE  
Chair, Advisory Group on Economic Recovery

Dear Professor Higgins,

### **Scottish Environment LINK: green recovery response**

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2020 inviting Scottish Environment LINK to feed in knowledge and insights into the Advisory Group's work on a green recovery. As we move towards an easing of lockdown, we welcome the government's efforts to consider how the economic recovery can be made greener, fairer and more equal.

Before Covid-19 impacts were felt in Scotland we were already facing an interlinked climate and nature emergency. The imperative that we act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reverse declines in biodiversity has not lessened. Indeed, the lockdown has caused many people to become more aware of the value of nature and the importance of a resilient environment to our wellbeing.

Given the huge disruption to individual's daily lives and doubts about whether there will be a quick bounce back to 'business as usual', there is a growing desire to avoid returning to old habits of living and working. In this situation, we have a rare moment to consider large-scale changes that would deliver for a green and just economy.

Scottish Environment LINK has convened a Green Recovery Group, including members from many organisations across the environmental sector, to respond to your invitation for views. Please find included as our response:

- A briefing setting out 11 recommendations for a green recovery;
- A paper setting out answers to some of the questions posed in your Call for Views;
- A brief summary of environmental projects known to have been impacted by Covid-19.

We are content to have this response made public.

With kind regards,

Dr Deborah Long  
Chief Officer



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