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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 January 2021 08:19  
**To:** localplan  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Tweedgreen response to LDP  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

CAUTION: External Email

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Good morning,

Please find attached Tweedgreen's response to the LDP, focussing on health.

Thank you,  
Best wishes  
Dr Lesley Morrison and Dr Christa Hook

## **The Climate Emergency**

There are two major public health threats facing us at the moment, the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

We will, thanks to vaccination and other public health measures, be able to deal with the pandemic. Unless we, as individuals, communities, local and national government, radically change our behaviours and policies, we have no chance of effectively responding to the climate emergency. We have ten years left to make changes and this Plan will apply for that period. It is, therefore, crucial that it looks at plans and policies through the lens of the climate emergency.

While the draft LDP sets out in the beginning (page 13), the influence and effect of the pandemic on planning, climate change is not mentioned till chapter 4. Despite the fact that SBC declared climate emergency in October, for which we commend it, and Council ██████████ stated that it must be followed by action and not simply be “hollow words” (1), this Plan fails to reflect the extent of emergency. In addition, the Sustainability Committee has so far met only twice. This scarcely implies an emergency situation.

The risk in many areas of policy, and service delivery, at the moment is that the pandemic provides not only reason, but also excuse, for delay. In fact, lessons learned from the response to one are fundamental to the response to the other. Christiana Figueres, previously chair of the United Nations Climate Change Committee, has made them clear in her seminal book, “The future we choose”(2):

Neither the Covid emergency nor the climate emergency respect boundaries.

Prevention is better than cure.

The poorest will suffer most.

We are only as safe as our most vulnerable.

We need to listen the science and the scientific experts.

The adequate response to such emergencies requires structural change.

## **Health and sustainability; planetary health**

Health and sustainability need to be at the core of all future planning.

“Health and wellbeing” are addressed in section 2.9 but it refers specifically to individual, not community or planetary, health. This is a major missed opportunity to address health in its widest sense and to put it the context of climate change.

Good social housing with low carbon heating and high quality insulation is, of course, essential for health. This was discussed at a well attended public meeting which Tweedgreen held at the Eastgate with Ian Aikman, head of planning, speaking and innovative architects laying out environmentally friendly options.

Sustainable transport is essential to reduce air pollution and minimise respiratory and other health problems health. A recent case where the coroner recorded pollution as cause of death on a child’s death certificate is salutary for all local authorities. Pollution, and unsustainable transport, kills.

Every opportunity should be taken by SBC to support allotments and encourage local food production, good for health and good for the local economy.

Surely the reference to “job markets” should refer to the Green New Deal and the evidence that green economic development is good for jobs, which in turn benefits health, and good for the climate The Scottish Government consultations on a “Just and Green Recovery” (3).

## **Sustainability Development Goals**

The Sustainability Development Goals (4) provide a vital framework and the LDP would benefit from sections being directly linked with specific goals.

### **The climate emergency is a health emergency.**

We also suggest that each section is prefaced by a statement. “This chapter/section is presented in the context of, and as a response to, the climate emergency”. This would make it clear that SBC is taking seriously their responsibility to deliver on the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan.(5).

One glaring example which throws into question SBC’s commitment to this is that, in the section on flooding (IS8), absolutely no mention is made of climate change being the cause of changing weather patterns and greater risk of flooding.

We are submitting this response on behalf of Tweedgreen, the sustainability group in Tweeddale, but, since our professional backgrounds are both in health, we are focussing on health issues.

The climate emergency is a health emergency and SBC’s response needs to be an emergency response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lesley Morrison and Dr Christa Hook, [REDACTED]  
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## **References**

1. [REDACTED] 18 Sept 2020. Available at: [https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3930/council\\_to\\_build\\_upon\\_steps\\_already\\_taken\\_to\\_help\\_tackle\\_climate\\_change](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3930/council_to_build_upon_steps_already_taken_to_help_tackle_climate_change).
2. The future we choose, Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, Manilla Press, 2020
3. <https://foe.scot/campaign/just-green-recovery-for-scotland/>
4. Scotland and the sustainable development goals: a national review to drive action, 30 July 2020. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-sustainable-development-goals-national-review-drive-action/>.
5. Climate Change Plan, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/>