



John Milne MP
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Angela Rayner
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham St,
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Angela,

Backing the Call for Statutory Climate and Nature Duties in English Devolution

I am writing to express my support for the South East Climate Alliance (SECA) and its campaign urging the Government to embed statutory duties for climate and nature within the forthcoming English Devolution Bill.

SECA represents over 140 local groups across East and West Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey and Kent – a powerful, community-led voice for urgent climate and nature action. Alongside twelve other regional climate networks, SECA has laid out a clear and constructive case for ensuring that Strategic Authorities are not only encouraged but mandated to act decisively on the climate and nature crises.

While the inclusion of environmental considerations in the Devolution White Paper is welcome, I share SECA's concern that without statutory backing, these commitments risk being too weak to drive the scale and urgency of action required. Embedding climate and nature duties—alongside economic and spatial planning—will ensure coherent, long-term strategies that are properly resourced and accountable.

I would particularly like to highlight SECA's core proposals:

- Requiring Strategic Authorities to produce Climate and Nature Strategies and co-ordinated action plans;
- Including measurable climate and nature outcomes in the Settlement Outcomes Framework;
- Embedding climate and nature data into all planning and investment processes;
- Ensuring climate and nature are mainstreamed across all policy areas;
- Strengthening engagement with community, environmental and faith-based organisations.

These proposals are thoughtful, achievable, and represent the informed consensus of hundreds of active local groups. I urge you to give them full and serious consideration.

I would also respectfully request that your office provide a formal response to the joint letter submitted to you in February by SECA and its partner organisations. Their work, and their commitment to constructive engagement, deserves recognition and a clear reply.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would be happy to meet or provide further information at any point to support these aims.

Yours sincerely,

John Milne MP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Munn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Horsham