

## Agenda item 8

For decision – Adoption of Frome Town Council Climate Emergency Planning Guide 2021

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The Planning Committee has seen an increase in planning applications for new developments come forward in the last few years and we are aware of more on the horizon. One of the main concerns and reason for objection, is the poor environmental sustainability standards of the developments.

The Frome Neighbourhood Plan is underpinned by the One Planet Living framework and sets out ten clear principles have been developed to promote happy, healthy, and sustainable communities, these have been translated into a management model for development.

The Mendip Local Plan has some very broad stipulations that new development should adhere to but sets out no specific targets or measures and makes no reference to net-zero targets, which standards are now working towards.

Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Mendip Local Plan were produced before both Councils declared a climate emergency. So currently there are not sufficient policies or guidance in place to ensure that all new development meets the highest standards.

The Frome Town Council Climate Emergency Planning Guide 2021 which can be [viewed at Appendix 3](#), clearly sets out why building standards must improve, and the measures that need to be taken. The guide includes chapters covering the following -

Chapter 1: Building Design and Renewable Energy

Chapter 2: Building materials and resources

Chapter 3: Active & Green Travel

Chapter 4: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

The adoption of the Climate Emergency Planning Guide as a policy document, will enable the planning committee to publish and refer to the guidance when responding to planning applications and pre-application enquires. It will provide a clear message to both developers and Mendip Council, setting out our expectations for sustainable developments and will in turn help raise standards.

### Recommendation

Adopt the Frome Town Council Climate Emergency Planning Guide as a policy document.