

#### Agenda item 4

For Decision – Whether to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill Alliance.

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##### Summary

The recommendation is that Frome Town Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill Alliance.

##### Background

The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill Alliance is a team of scientists, academics, lawyers and campaigners working together — and guided by current science — calling for urgent, far-reaching and necessary actions from the UK Government to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. The CEE Bill (a private member's bill) was tabled by Caroline Lucas MP in Sept 2020 and has had its first parliamentary reading and awaiting its postponed second. It is now supported by 108 MPs across 8 political parties, from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as 16 Town, City and Parish Councils and 15 District and County Councils; also 106 organisations including the Cooperative and Triodos Banks, Ecotricity, Greenpeace, Oxfam, Knepp Castle Estate, Organisation for Responsible Business and Zero Carbon Yorkshire.

##### Discussion

One of the expert contributors to the CEE Bill, Conservationist Dr Charlie Gardner, University of Kent, introduces the Bill in a short video (less than two minutes). [The video can be viewed here](#).

Why do we need the Bill? Drafted by the CEE Alliance, the CEE Bill is designed specifically to urgently address with far-reaching action the need to reverse the climate and ecological crisis we face. The Bill ensures the UK takes responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions (as per 2015 Paris Agreement), actively restores UK biodiverse habitats, and stops damage to the environment through the production, transportation and disposal of the goods we consume. It ensures regular monitoring of promised targets, as well as the strategies and solutions resolved upon to meet these challenges are arrived at through binding National Citizens' Assemblies.

A global emergency, as the Covid pandemic has shown, needs strong, decisive national and international action i.e Governmental action that has immediate consequence for everyone in local communities. Hence this directly concerns all Frome residents. Parliament declared a CEE in June 2019. But despite a Parliamentary financed National Citizen's Assembly, Government actions haven't matched their rhetoric. For example, despite pledging in November 2020, as part of its Ten Point Plan for a green Industrial Revolution, to increase funding for The Green Homes Grant, that grant was pulled in the recent budget. Greta Thunberg's strap-line seems apt: "No more empty promises".

The Climate Change Act (2008) was also a Private Members Bill that took 3 years to become law demonstrating that Government will only respond to sustained public pressure. In December 2018, FTC's declaration of a Climate Emergency, alongside its pledge to make Frome Carbon Neutral by 2030, the Council also agreed unanimously to "Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible." Our support for this Bill will honour that commitment.

The 15 County and District Councils: Amber Valley Borough Council, Basingstoke and Deane District Council, Cheltenham District Council, Colchester District Council, Derbyshire Dales, Forest of Dean District Council, High Peak Council, North Devon District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Pendle Borough Council, South Brent Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council, Teignbridge District Council, Warrington Borough Council.

The 16 City, Town and Parish Councils: Cockermouth Town Council, Fulford Parish Council, Ilkley Town Council, Keynsham Town Council, Kirkbymoorside Town Council, Littlehampton Parish Council, Llangollen Town Council, Lymm Parish Council, Oxford City Council, Portsmouth Unitary Council, Skidby Parish Council, Staverton Parish Council, Penzance Town Council, Portland Town Council, Sheffield City Council, Shipley Town Council, Skidby Parish Council, Staverton Parish Council, Tormarton Parish Council, Totnes Town Council, Witney Town Council.

**Recommendation**

In the revised Frome Town Council Strategy, the Council commits to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill Alliance.