

## Agenda item 4

For decision – Projects for the People’s Budget Town vote for 2018/19

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### Summary

This report proposes three projects for the town to vote on as part of the People’s Budget Town initiative.

### Background

The essence of Participatory Budgeting (PB), or the People’s Budget as we call it now, is about increasing public engagement in budget setting, allowing greater participation in democratic decision making and helping FTC keep in touch with the views and aspirations of the community. There are many successful models around the world that manage the process in very different ways from engaging residents in designing the process through to a single vote.

At the last meeting of the Town Matters Committee on 21 February, Cllrs reviewed progress of the PB initiative and noted that at this meeting of the Council, Cllrs will consider whether to approve the three proposed projects for the town to vote on. Working with project sponsor, Cllr Eliot, we have shortlisted from seven projects down to three and have conducted a feasibility study of each one to ensure that all three projects are deliverable within the £10k budget in the financial year 2018/19.

The vote will be launched at the Annual Town meeting on 4 April and will remain open for one month. The winning project will be announced in May when project planning will commence.

The £10k budget for PB Town was agreed at Council on 24 January.

### Proposals

The three proposed projects are as follows:

**Town Orchard:** This will be sited on the Old Showfield and comprise a range of local varieties of fruit trees. The location of the orchard will be agreed with local people. An orchard will help relieve some of the drainage issues on the site, improve the local landscape of the Old Showfield and enhance biodiversity. The orchard will be planted by local conservation volunteer groups and the community will be encouraged to reinvigorate the practice of scrumping.

**Dog Poo Powered Street Light:** We are keen to change behaviour of those owners who do not pick up after their dog. We are also keen to promote the importance of using renewable energy instead of carbon based fuels. A dog poo powered street light aims to maximise the potential of dog poo. It works by dog owners dropping their bags into a box at the foot of the

light. The box is a small bio-digester that produces methane to fuel the light. Research suggests that 10 bags will result in two hours of gas light. It is likely that the location of the lamp will be either in Victoria Park or the Old Showfield.

Waterslide: In 2014, Park Street in Bristol was closed for the day and a waterslide installed down the middle of the road. [Here is the link to The Guardian's image](#). The event was very successful. This project will install a similar waterslide on one of the hilly streets in Frome (actual street to be confirmed). Sliders will apply for one of the free tickets and the lucky ones will be drawn out of a hat by the Mayor. The event will be free and a fun event for the community. We will use the event to launch the You're Welcome scheme, which as well as relaunching the community toilet scheme encourages cafes to fill water bottles for free and is part of our plastic free town campaign.

### Recommendations

1. Approve the town orchard, dog poo powered street light and the waterslide as the three projects that will go forward to be voted on by the community.
2. Launch the vote at the Annual Town meeting on 4 April.
3. Implement the winning project in the following 12 months
4. Note that the £10k budget is under the Participatory Budgeting cost centre in the 2018/19 budget.