

## Agenda item 6

For information - Update on the People's Budget projects for 2017/18 and 2018/19

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### Summary

This report updates Cllrs on the Participatory Budgeting, or People's Budget, initiative and notes that the three projects to be voted on by the community will be tabled for approval at Council on 7 March.

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.

Last October, Council reviewed the progress of the three 2017/18 parts that comprised the Participatory Budgeting initiative – PB play, PB project and PB events.

We are still waiting for Mendip to transfer the three open spaces that will be the focus of the PB play initiative.

The PB project in 2017/18 was about the public voting on whether to remove, restore or replace with new, the toilets in Victoria Park. The result of the vote was an overwhelming public support for providing new toilets. Chris Stringer, Environment Manager, and Cllrs Goldfinger, Ackroyd and Cobb are progressing this project and scoping out options.

For 2018/19, Council agreed last October that PB will have two parts – PB events and PB project.

#### 1. PB events

PB events will comprise seven events that have been put forward by the community. The grants panel agreed these seven out of nine applications and are as follows:

- Black Swan - Frome Window Wanderland 2019
- Frome Town Rotary - Frome Fireworks
- Frukes - Frome Ukulele Festival
- Home in Frome - Light The Night - Frome Lantern Procession
- The Little Victory Ball – Reflections - memory and community
- Rare Species - Free fitness for all
- Show Of Strength Theatre Company - Trading Local

The total budget for PB events is £25k and there will be a public vote on 17 March at the Football Club. New for this year, we will hold an additional vote at the Youth Conference on 12 & 13 March. The votes will be combined, and the winners announced at the end of the day on 17 March at the Football Club.

## 2. PB projects

PB project will have a shortlist of three projects that the community will vote on. The vote will be launched at the Annual Town meeting on 4 April and will remain open for one month. At present there are seven potential projects and staff, in liaison with Cllr Eliot as project sponsor, are conducting a feasibility study of each one as it is crucial that all three projects are deliverable. The three projects will be tabled at Council for approval on 7 March.

### Recommendations

1. Note the progress on the 2017/18 PB play, PB events and PB projects.
2. Note the progress on the 2018/19 PB events
3. Note that the three proposed projects for 2018/19 PB project will be tabled at Council on 7 March.