

Agenda item 8

For Decision: FTC to work with Public Square to review, co-design and co-produce the Grants process

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Summary

This report updates Cllrs on discussions with Public Square regarding a potential review of our Grants process and how this may be re-designed and seeks approval for proceeding with this project

Background

Public Square have two -year funding to work with local councils. Following our work with them in year 1 of their project on the People's Budget Town Vote they have 5 days allocated for working with FTC in year two. After conversations about where the focus of this project might be wider conversations have taken place with the Grants Advisory Group to see if the project might fit within the desire to review and evaluate our grants processes.

The proposal

The ambition is to review and reinvigorate the FTC grants programme for organisations in Frome, answering the question, 'The council has grants to allocate, how best should this be done?'

The proposed approach is to run co-design workshops with organisations (including active citizens, Cllrs and community organisations) to redesign the end to end process for grants (e.g. on how grants are advertised, applied for, agreed and administered). All participants will be an equal stakeholder in the process of rethinking and co-designing how grants are given by Frome Town Council.

To start this, we will host a small working group to work collectively to plan and design the co-design workshops.

The approach has a number of advantages:

- Community organisations who have been quiet during COVID 19 are re-engaged
- Community organisations are involved in shaping a grants programme that is more fit for local purpose and reaches more local people
- Councillors are involved in the process of co-production and co-design

Project outputs

1. Create and bring onboard a small working group made up of successful grant recipients, unsuccessful grant recipients organisations who have never applied for FTC funding and councillors.

2. Small working group to design the co-design day including scoping tools, method, and recruitment activities (working towards including wider community groups in a co-design day)
3. First stage co-design and prototyping workshop to shape and build the process for grants made up of a wider group determined by the working group.
4. Field work testing (potentially open a small grant round)
5. Final co-design workshop
6. New Grants launch

The Grants Advisory Group would be updated on the work of the project as it evolves and proposals for the scope of the wider co-design workshop would be brought to Town Matters Committee in October, informed by the initial discussions of the small working group.

Recommendation

For the Town Matters Committee to agree to the Grants Advisory Group working with Public Square to initiate and deliver a co-design project with a focus on designing a grants process that meets local need.