

### Agenda item 3

#### For decision – Approval of the Play Strategy

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#### Summary

This report recommends that council adopts this play strategy for Frome and to continue to work towards achieving the ambitions of the document by coordinating the realisation of the recommendations laid out within it.

Children's Scrapstore Bristol was contracted to create a participative play strategy for Frome. Town Matters was updated on 6 October 2021 with regard to the process used to undertake this work and were provided with a summary of initial themes.

[The Strategy can be found here at Appendix 1](#), and we are recommending that councillors approve this strategy as a working document to be deployed in: supporting planning and business development; management of our parks and open spaces and delivery of our wider FTC strategy and objectives through the work programme.

This strategy is aspirational and forward thinking, peppered with inspiration and recommendations across three areas; Space for play, Time for play and Freedom for play.

It is supported by an audit of FTC's parks, which identifies good provision with regards to access to nature and physical wellbeing. The audit recognises development opportunities in creating social spaces, focused areas for reflection, risk and challenge and identifies that we currently have weaknesses in the provision of accessible, inclusive play equipment, spaces for creativity and performance, access to sand and water to allow for play with the elements and the provision of loose parts play, although the rangers have started to facilitate that this year with sticks for den building.

The strategy provides a rationale and framework for developing inclusive provision, connecting spaces and places, building a manifesto for play to enhance opportunities across the town, developing pop up play opportunities, continuing to support and identify third sector organisations to deliver and coordinate play opportunities and building a play brand across the town.

Frome Town Council has used the initial finding to inform the work programme across all work streams and are using the document to inform existing work streams for example building new, accessible, sand pits and feeding inspirational ideas into the School Streets and Green Breather day planning.

**Recommendation**

Adopt the play strategy for Frome and continue to work towards achieving the ambitions of the document by coordinating the realisation of the recommendations laid out within it.