

## Agenda item 4

For ratification – funding awards made by the Youth Participatory Panel

Author: Hannah Stopford, Community Partnerships and Development Manager

### 1. Summary

This paper recommends ratifying the funding decisions of the Youth Participatory Panel.

### 2. Background

This year, the Grants Committee have piloted a participatory grant making programme with young people. Young people aged 12-13 from across Frome have designed the grant programme themselves and were given the responsibility of awarding £10,000 of the grants budget to applicants of their choosing. After a tour of the middle school assemblies so all Year 8s had a chance to vote on priorities, a large workshop was held with representatives from all the schools to begin the design process, which was refined by a panel of 8 students. They developed the criteria, the scoring system, the application method and the decision making process together, and the grant round was released at the same time as this Community Grants round. Six out of eight eligible applications were shortlisted for interview, and our panel spent a day grilling potential applicants and undergoing a painstaking deliberation process.

They are delighted to announce the following awards for ratification by the Grants Committee.

### 3. Decision by the Participatory Group

Organisation	Project	Award
Focus Frome	Free drop-in sessions and self help guide for Young People struggling with Mental Health	£ 2,000.00
Vallis Farm Education Centre	Vallis Farm Youth Project - safe access to outdoors	£ 2,000.00
Rainbow Flow	Variety of Workshops for ages 9-14	£ 500.00
Purple Elephant	Tea and Toasties	£ 2,000.00
Fusion Lifestyle	Free Swimming Lessons	£ 2,000.00
Youth Production Network CIC	Frome Pride 2026	£ 1,500.00
	Total	£10,000.00

### 4. Engagement, feedback and next steps governance

Cllrs have been consulted prior to the preparation of this paper.

5. Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

The FTC Grant Programme is part of the approved work programme and helps to deliver Aim 1 of the Council Plan (Grow Community Wellbeing).

6. Financial and Risk Implications

None

7. Legal/HR implications

None

8. Equalities implications

None

9. Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

None

10. Health & Safety Implications

None

11. Background papers

None

12. Report Sign-Off

Hannah Stopford, Community Partnerships & Development Manager 19/02/26  
Peter Wheelhouse, Acting Town Clerk 19/02/26

**Recommendation**

To ratify the decision of the Youth Participatory Panel to award a total of £10,000 to the six organisations as listed in the table above.