

ITEM 8: PARTICIPATORY BUDGET 2012/13

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1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the 2012/13 participatory budget programme.

2. Supporting Information

Background

2.1 The Participatory Budget gives local residents a vote as to how a portion of the Council's annual budget should be spent. This year there were two elements:

1. £100,000 for priorities that would benefit people wherever they live in the Borough
2. £125,000 for schemes that would benefit people living in a particular area:
 - £50,000 each for the Maidenhead and Windsor areas
 - £25,000 for Ascot and the Sunnings

2.2 Cycling featured amongst the top priorities in each of the three local areas and at its meeting on 15 October, the Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee approved allocations as follows:

- **Maidenhead:** £10,000
- **Windsor:** £8,000
- **Ascot / Sunnings:** £5,000

2.3 It is proposed that the funding will be spent on the following schemes:

- **Maidenhead:** additional cycle parking at Maidenhead Station
- **Windsor:** experimental traffic regulation order permitting cycling in the central section of Peascod Street
- **Ascot / Sunnings:** Cycle facilities at St Michael's Primary School, Sunningdale.

2.4 The above schemes have been chosen because they meet a recognised need for cycling facilities and can be delivered within the current financial year.

2.5 **Maidenhead** - At Maidenhead Station, the existing cycle parking is full, with bikes chained to the railings alongside the station forecourt, even in winter. A meeting with First Great Western highlighted the bike shed to the rear of the ticket office as the area with most potential for improvement. The current layout is very poor, with stands too close together and some stands blocked by others. It is proposed to rationalise the layout and install two-tier cycle parking in this location, as well as brightening up the interior of the compound. Security has already been improved with CCTV and the proposed improvements should encourage greater use, thus improving security further.

- 2.6 **Windsor** - Cyclists are currently prohibited from cycling in all sections of Peascod Street in the town centre. However, one of the main clusters of cycle parking is located around the junction of Peascod Street and William Street. A number of cyclists have been stopped by the police and issued with penalty notices for cycling in this area, prompting a series of complaints. It is therefore proposed to implement an experimental traffic regulation order permitting cycling in the central section between Oxford Road East and William Street, while improving signing to clarify where cyclists can and cannot cycle. The situation will be reviewed after a year at which point there will be an opportunity to make the order permanent.
- 2.7 **Ascot / Sunnings** - St Michael's Primary School in Sunningdale are seeking assistance to fund the installation of cycle parking and a parents waiting shelter. The school run Bikeability classes for their Year 5 and 6 pupils and are keen to encourage more pupils to come to school by bike and provide somewhere for them to leave their bike whilst at school.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 It is recommended that members of the Cycle Forum:

- note the proposals for spending the Participatory Budget.
- provide feedback on scheme designs through the Cycle Forum website where appropriate: <http://groupspaces.com/rbwm-cycle-forum>