

Report for: ACTION
Item Number: 5



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Participatory Budget consultation 2011 – results of the Windsor/Eton area vote
Responsible Officer(s)	Andrew Elkington, Head of Policy and Performance
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Anne Dackombe, Communications and Marketing Manager – 01628 796410
Member reporting	NA
For Consideration By	Windsor Town Forum
Date to be Considered	Thursday 22 September 2011
Implementation Date if Not Called In	Immediately
Affected Wards	All wards in the Windsor/Eton area
Keywords/Index	Participatory Budgeting 2011, Windsor area vote

Report Summary

1. This report deals with the outcome of the 2011 Participatory Budgeting (PB) exercise for the Windsor and Eton area.
2. It recommends that members of the Windsor Town Forum decide the allocation of funds for Windsor & Eton priorities as voted on by local residents.
3. These recommendations are being made because power was delegated to the Forum by the Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee which met on 21 July 2011
4. If adopted, the key financial implications for the Council are the spending of £50,000 on Windsor/Eton residents' priorities.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Residents in the Windsor and Eton area will benefit from £50,000 being spent on projects that they have voted as being their priorities through the 2011 PB exercise.	Within the current financial year 2011/12
---	---

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Windsor Town Forum decides the allocation of funds for Windsor & Eton priorities, as delegated by the Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee which met on 21 July 2011, and outlined in paragraph 14.6.

2. Reason for Recommendation(s) and Options Considered

Option	Comments
1. Windsor Town Forum to decide on the PB funding allocation for their area, based on local residents' stated priorities for the geographic areas where they live, work or visit.	Participatory Budgeting is an essential element of the Council's Big Society offer as a Vanguard authority. This option would ensure that residents' priorities are implemented and demonstrate the Council's commitment to putting residents first.

3. Key Implications

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Budget allocation spent on residents' priorities	NA	Budget allocation spent on residents' priorities	NA	NA	End of 2011/12 financial year

4. Financial Details

Financial impact on the budget

£300,000 capital budget was set aside for PB in 2011, £125,000 of which was allocated for borough-wide schemes and £125,000 for area-based schemes in Maidenhead (£50,000), Windsor and Eton (£50,000) and Ascot and the Sunnings (£25,000). The final £50,000 is being used for the new neighbourhood online voting scheme.

5. Legal Implications

None

6. Value For Money

The PB consultation demonstrates to residents the Council's commitment to engaging them in ensuring that public money is spent on their priorities and that they are getting value for money in the projects they select, while benefiting from low council tax overall.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

NA

8. Risk Management

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
1. Failure to implement the outcomes of the PB exercise would frustrate residents'	High	Implement priority decisions as voted for by residents	Low

<p>expectations of influencing Council capital spend on their expressed priorities and potentially they would lose faith in the Council's pledge to put their needs first.</p> <p>2. A key element of the Royal Borough's Big Society offer would not be met</p>	High	Ensure the Council acts on residents' wishes through involvement in the PB exercise	Low
--	------	---	-----

9. Links to Strategic Objectives

The PB exercise links to the Council's strategic objects of Residents First, Value for Money and Delivering Together.

10. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

PB works by engaging with local communities and offering them the opportunity to get involved in deciding where their money is spent on project they believe are of greatest benefit to their local areas.

11. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

None

12. Property and Assets

None

13. Any other implications:

None

14. Consultation

- 14.1 The 2011 PB exercise gave residents the opportunity to vote for geographic area-based options for spending capital money (for Maidenhead & surrounds, Windsor & Eton and Sunningdale & Ascot).
- 14.2 The project options for the geographic area-based schemes were selected in consultation with parish councils, chambers of commerce, town partnerships, town forums and taking into account suggestions from other local organisations and interest groups.
- 14.3. The consultation ran between 17 May and 17 June 2011 under the banner Your Local Budget, in line with the national branding of PB. Graphic design for the posters, leaflets and consultation forms was provided free through the Council's Big Society vanguard work with the national PB Unit.
- 14.4 Leaflets containing the questionnaire (attached Appendix A) were delivered

to 61,500 homes and were available through Council offices, libraries, leisure centres and First Stop Shops. The questionnaire was also available online. A public relations campaign was staged to raise awareness, including the use of Facebook and Twitter, and there were email communications with parish councils and local organisations as well as directly with residents who provided their contact details through the 2010 PB exercise so they could be kept up to date about Council services and initiatives.

- 114.5 The consultation attracted a total of 2,963 responses – 957 of them online and 2,006 by the return of the postal questionnaire. This is a 20% increase in the response rate over last year's exercise.
- 14.6 The responses have been analysed and the outcome for the Windsor/Eton area was as follows:
- **The Windsor schemes were ranked by 44% of respondents, with the highest proportion of them (37%) selecting pavement repairs and maintenance as their number one priority. There is a sharp drop to the second most popular scheme – a contribution towards the Olympic Legacy Bridge (20%). In third place is improved parking facilities on 16%.**
 - **When residents' top two priorities are taken into account pavement repairs and maintenance remains the favourite on 57%, with improved parking second (37%) and street cleaning and tree care third (31%). The option to contribute towards the Thames Legacy Bridge drops to fourth place with 25%.**

15. Timetable for Implementation

Within the current financial year (2011/12).

16. Appendices

Consultation document

Final consultation analysis report

17. Background Information

Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee report and minutes (21 July 2011)