

Report for:  
ACTION



<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	NO – Part I
<b>Title</b>	<b>Participatory Budget - Topics to be included 2016 – Initial Consultation Results</b>
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	David Scott, Head of Governance, Performance and Policy
<b>Contact officer, job title and phone number</b>	Louisa Dean, Communications and Marketing Manager Tel: 01628 796410
<b>Member reporting</b>	Cllr Stretton, Principal Member for Culture and Communities
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	16 December 2015
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	Immediately
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Participatory Budget 2016, Local Budget consultation, borough-wide, geographic areas, proposals for the future, increasing participation rates

### Report Summary

1. This report looks at the initial consultation results for topics to be included in the Royal Borough's Participatory Budget (PB) for schemes borough-wide and in geographic areas.
2. It proposes topics to be included in the residents' consultation which will run at the same time as the annual Council Tax mail-out.
3. The financial implications of the PB consultation will be decided through the 2016/17 budget process.

### If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
1. The scheme will enable residents to continue to have a direct say in how a potentially significant proportion of the 2016/17 PB capital budget allocation will be spent on one-off projects they consider priorities, both borough-wide and in their specific geographic areas.	Within the 2016/17 financial year
2. The scheme would continue to offer more opportunity for engagement and participation so there would be even	Within the 2016/17 financial year

more local influence in how the allocated money is spent.
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## 1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### **RECOMMENDATION: That the sub committee:**

Approve the suggested content for the borough-wide and geographic area consultation in 2016, and delegate responsibility to the Principal Member for Culture and Communities to finalise the 2016 PB consultation document with the Communications and Marketing Manager.

## 2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Participatory Budgeting (PB) empowers local people to play a key role in deciding how public money is spent on projects and services in their neighbourhoods and gets people involved in determining local priorities based on need. As such, it enhances local democracy and is a key element of the Council's Big Society programme.

2.2

Option	Comments
1. Delegate responsibility to the named Cabinet Member to agree the topics for consultation. <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	This will enable the 2016 consultation to be carried out with residents and to include specific feedback from our stakeholders.
2. Decide to continue with the 2015 consultation form.	This could be considered a retrograde step and not in line with the Council's commitment to Big Society as we have asked interested parties to take part in the topics to be included consultation.

## 3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

3.1

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Refreshed PB consultation to run alongside council tax information mail-out	Missed opportunity to engage with residents and further decline in participation compared to 2015 rates	Response meets 2015 rate.	Response rate exceeds 2015 rate by 2%	Response exceeds 2015 rate by 5%	April 2016

#### **4. FINANCIAL DETAILS**

##### **Financial impact on the budget**

- 4.1 A Capital Bid for Participatory Budgets including £250,000 for this programme has been allocated in the 2016/17 budget for this activity.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee has power under the Constitution to progress the Council's Participatory Budget agenda. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6. VALUE FOR MONEY**

- 6.1 The PB public consultation provides the Council with information on residents' priorities, the value of which extends beyond PB itself by providing a barometer of local opinion that is beneficial to Council-wide service provision.

#### **7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL**

- 7.1 None arising from the report.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
Failure to refresh the existing PB scheme results in a further decline in participation and the result is less relevant to residents in general across the borough.	High	Refreshed scheme helps to encourage resident engagement.	Low
Failure to run the annual PB consultation impacts on the Council's commitment to the Big Society.	Medium	Use communications and marketing to highlight the many other areas of PB and opportunities for public participation.	Low

#### **9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 9.1 The Participatory Budget exercise is linked to the following strategic objectives:

### **Residents First**

- Support Children and Young People
- Encourage Healthy People and Lifestyles
- Improve the Environment, Economy and Transport
- Work for safer and stronger communities

### **Value for Money**

- Deliver Economic Services
- Improve the use of technology
- Increase non-Council Tax Revenue
- Invest in the future

### **Delivering Together**

- Enhanced Customer Services
- Deliver Effective Services
- Strengthen Partnerships

### **Equipping Ourselves for the Future**

- Equipping Our Workforce
- Developing Our systems and Structures
- Changing Our Culture

## **10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION**

10.1 It is not necessary to complete and EqIA for this activity.

## **11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMODATION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None

## **12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

12.1 None

## **13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None

## **14. CONSULATION**

14.1 We received 14 responses from the initial topics to be included consultation. This was from a combination of parish councillors and borough ward councillors.

It is proposed that there would be eight topics for residents to vote for in the borough-wide scheme and five topics for residents to vote for in each of the area based schemes.

The ideas that were put forward were:

- Skate park in Broomhall Recreation Ground
- Parking at Littlewick Green Village Hall
- Parking at Cox Green Scout Hut
- Community notice boards in Furze Platt
- Community buildings at Knowl Hill

- Love Ascot scheme
- Fountain at the village green in Horton
- Parking at Bell Lane, Eton
- Eton Wick Animal Sanctuary
- Holy Trinity Garrison and Parish Church community gardens
- Waterways projects in Maidenhead

The ideas that have been rejected are:

- Traffic calming measures at Cranbrook Drive – it is proposed that highways assessment needs to be completed before a capital bid could be submitted through highways for this.
- Consultants report for proposals to turn the one way section of Eton High Street into an open space – it is proposed that highways assessment needs to be completed before a capital bid could be submitted through highways for this.
- Zebra crossing at Ray Mead Road at Bridge Gardens – it is proposed that this work may have been carried out by the time the consultation is issued.

### **Next Steps**

- 14.2 It is proposed that the Principal Member for Culture and Communities and the Communications and Marketing Manager agree on the final eight for the borough-wide scheme and the five schemes for each area wide options based on the feedback above.

The leaflet will be re-vamped from last year and will be circulated to members of the Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub-Committee for information.

The survey will be sent out at the same time as Council Tax bills. PB consultation would continue to be carried out when the council tax bills are issued. This is at a time when people are thinking of their council tax and what it is used for.

Residents will be asked to choose their preferences during February, March and April.

An online and paper survey will be used to highlight some specific areas where funding could be allocated as per the initial stakeholder consultation.

A blank box for residents to put forward their own ideas for specific projects would also be provided.

BMG (who carry out our residents' survey) would be consulted on the online and paper survey once the final list has been agreed upon. They would analyse the results before Members decide on the allocation of funding. This was successfully carried out last year.

A paper will be brought back to the June meeting for members to decide what projects would be successful in the PB budgets.

## 15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Date	Details
December 2015	Analysis of results, Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee to decide details of consultation for distribution
February 2016	Finalise consultation leaflet and distribute with council tax bill.
May 2016	Result of exercise collated by BMG
June 2016	Responses ready for June Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee to consider.

## 16. APPENDICES

16.1 None

## 17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

17.1 None

## 18. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
<b>Internal</b>				
Cllr Burbage	Leader of the Council	7/12/15	7/12/15	
Cllr Claire Stretton	Principal Member for Culture and Communities	4/12/15	4/12/15	Comments included
David Scott	Head of Governance	4/12/15	4/12/15	Comments included
Andrew Brooker	Head of Finance	7/12/15		
<b>External</b>				
NA				