

Project Outline for Working Groups

<u>Review Title</u>	A review of the use of Participatory budgeting and how it might inform and improve MDDC budget-setting process
<u>Working Group Members</u>	
<u>Working Group Chairman</u>	
<u>Officer Support</u>	Clare Robathan, Scrutiny Officer Jessica Watts, Member Services
<u>Rationale:</u> Why is the review important? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified by Members as a key issue for the public? • Poor performing service? • Service considered important by the community? • Public interest covered in local media? 	<p>Participatory budgeting is a process whereby residents play an active role in deciding where parts of an authority's budget are spent, through discussion, briefings and debate.</p> <p>In the UK, most cases of participatory budgeting have been small scale community grant allocations. Even on a smaller scale, they have been credited with encouraging greater local involvement, increasing confidence in local service providers, and increasing control for residents over the allocation of resources.</p> <p>Having heard about the success of the process in other places (e.g. London, Scotland, Brazil) and hearing anecdotally the frustration that some residents would like more transparency and involvement with how Council funds are spent, there is now an opportunity to explore other ways of shaping budgets. Whilst much of the council's core budget is statutory and prescribed, where there are pots/budgets that are self-contained, the Council could explore if there is a way to have more engagement and participation.</p>
<u>Review aims, objectives</u> What does the review hope to achieve? Identify what will be included and what is achievable. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what is being done and what the potential barriers are • Explore existing initiatives and determine if they are appropriately joined up • Review performance indicators • Compare our policies with those of a neighbouring authority • Assess the environmental /social impacts 	A Spotlight Review would explore what we can learn from effective PB processes in other places in the UK and internationally, and think about how this might inform and improve our own budget-setting process. <p>A Spotlight Review would look to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the benefits, possible outcomes and available methodologies of participatory budgeting and enable the Council to learn about other ways to set budgets and support residents; • Explore how other Local Authorities are using this process and the impact it has had; • Talk to stakeholders, including other Local

	<p>Authorities doing this and the LGA, to create informed recommendations on whether this is something that could work in MDDC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how Members can be more involved in the process;
<p><u>Desired Outcomes</u></p>	<p>To make recommendations on how the process might work in MDDC, for example whether it could be a single theme, a single ward, project based, a trial across a couple of town/parish councils, and/or a process that extends and develops existing spending processes, e.g. determining S106 spending.</p> <p>This could be a collaborative and fresh way to shape our place, by adapting existing processes, which might be welcome given the challenges and financial pressures that Councils and residents face. The outcome would be that residents feel more 'involved' and clear on how Councils decide to spend money. It can help deepen democracy, build stronger communities, and create a more equitable distribution of public resources.</p>
<p><u>Methodology / Approach</u></p> <p>What type of enquiry will be used to gather evidence? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk based review of papers • Site visits / observations • Comparisons with other authorities • Process mapping • Public meetings • Interviewing officers • Calling witnesses/experts to give evidence 	<p>A one off Spotlight Review to review the evidence and research, as well as talking to relevant Officers and experts before making recommendations.</p>
<p><u>Witness / Experts</u></p> <p>An important part of the scoping process includes deciding what people should be asked for interview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Members and officers are required by the Constitution to attend to explain decisions. • Other people may be invited to discuss issues of local concern and / or answer questions but are not required to attend. It 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant MDDC Officers; • Other Local Authorities using this process; • LGA; • Town and Parish Councils to understand where it may be possible to implement; • An external organisation like: 1) PB Network (https://pbnetwork.org.uk/), 2) People Powered (https://www.peoplepowered.org/) or 3) NESTA (who created a helpful resource on PB)

<p>may be more beneficial to visit people for an informal chat.</p>	
<p><u>Timescales</u></p> <p>What will be done and by when. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date • Meeting frequency • Draft report deadline • Projected completion date 	<p>A one off Spotlight Review in the autumn.</p>
<p><u>Target Body for Findings / Recommendations</u></p>	<p>Scrutiny Committee</p>

WORK PLAN

Proposed meetings

Internal Officers

- Director of Corporate Affairs and Business Transformation and Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing to hear the strategic overview of how the Council currently operates.
- The Community Safety Emergency Planning Officer and the Public Health Operations Manager to understand detailed information on: the Council's role and responsibilities on ASB; the current policies within the Council; how the policies play out on the ground; the current network of stakeholders that the council works with.
- Housing Services Manager and the Neighbourhood Customer Engagement Officer to discuss the ASB Policy relating to housing management. The Neighbourhood team are currently reviewing the Housing specific ASB policy and undertaking engagement workshops with tenants.
- Operations Manager for Street Scene to discuss Environmental Enforcement such as fly tipping, graffiti removal and Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- Head of Legal to discuss how they support Officers regarding ASB.

Case studies

Meeting with Officers to review some real life case studies, including where the Council has worked closely with stakeholders and others, and any areas that went well/were challenging. This could also include a strategic review of case load, and a review of the full cycle of ASB work from the process of reporting ASB, to closure of a case.

External stakeholders

- Sgt Kath Larrett, the Community Safety Sergeant for Exeter, East & Mid Devon who oversees the responses regarding youth ASB matters and has recently piloted a Youth Intervention Clinic which is likely to be rolled out across Devon.
- The local geographical police Inspector, Grant Leitch who can advise the local policing priorities relating to ASB issue.
- Victim experience: Age UK Devon; Victim Care Devon;
- Perpetrator experience: Devon and Children Families Partnership – Early help; Young Devon; Space – Devon Youth Service;
- Another Local Authority who is doing this well (to be researched/TBC).
- Meetings or feedback from residents?