

Participatory Budgeting (PB) – an introduction



What is PB?

'PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget.'

Or...

'Local people deciding on how to allocate part of a public budget'

Or.....

*'If it feels like **we** have decided ---- it's PB.*

If it feels like someone else has decided, it isn't.'

Brazilian resident involved in PB



HEALTH WARNING!

Only a small percentage of any public budget will be allocated using PB

The PB process is formally mandated and 'signed off' by the elected legislature

Supporting Representative Democracy



ORIGINS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

- Began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1980s – city of 1.5m people
- End of military dictatorship and election of Workers' Party



DEVELOPMENT OF PB

- Now in 300+ cities worldwide, including Latin America, Canada, USA and over 25 in Europe
- Identified as good practise by international institutions, including World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, UN Habitat prize, and DFID
- 175 + examples of UK pilots
- Links with the 'localism' agenda



PB in Scotland

2015-16 - 20 of 32 Local Authority areas engaged in some form of PB.

SNP manifesto recommends 1% of all LA budgets to be allocated through PB in future

Scottish Govt. providing practical and financial support to the process



PB in Scotland – 2

- Projects developed include:
- Western Isles: 500k for Bus/transport provision in
- Glasgow: £210k for 21 events across the city
- Aberdeenshire: 200k integrated Health Care Fund
- Perth: 20k for carers' provision (voted on by carers)
- Moray: £120k for economic development projects
- Edinburgh: £200k Highways/ Housing budget



‘We should have thought of this years ago’

- Nairn Provost (Council Leader) Laurie Fraser.



POSSIBLE PB MODELS

- Small grants allocation
- Mainstream Investment



Small Grants PB

A grants pot / initiative funding
- community chest, etc

Bidders present proposals to residents,
who vote on which to support

Limited impact on mainstream

Effective at engaging, networking
and enthusing local people



MAINSTREAM INVESTMENT

Move towards allocating substantial sums of mainstream funds via PB – where residents effectively commission services from mainstream providers.

1. Newcastle – £2.25m Childrens' Fund
2. Tower Hamlets – £5m over 2 years from mainstream budgets to 'top up' existing themed provision, voted on by residents

The Budget matrix – turning deliberation into cash

Geographic Area	Priority total	Need total	Population total	Total Score	% of total city score	Resource available (£41,200)
Area A	6	6	9	21	12.9%	£5,314
Area B	3	9	6	18	11%	£4,544
Area C	12	12	6	30	18.4%	£7,581
Area D	3	2	2	7	4.3%	£1,772
Area E	12	2	2	16	9.8%	£4,038
etc	~	~	~	~	~	~
Total for all areas of the city				163	100%	£41,200



Evaluation and Learning

Design

PB budget cycle
=
participatory
activity at all stages

Informing and engaging



Setting of Priorities

Scrutiny and Monitoring



Delivery of new projects



Decision Making



Develop budget Ideas



PB – benefits and challenges

- What are the benefits of undertaking a PB process?
- What are the challenges presented by adopting a PB approach?



Increasing involvement

- In two consecutive events in County Durham, first 800 and then 1400 people participated
- In Manton, 1500 out of 6000 residents voted – 25%!
- In Dulverton, eight different public authorities have been involved in the local PB initiative.
Funding contributed by the Town Council, Primary Care Trust, District Council, housing association and the fire and rescue service.



Increasing capacity

- A community group of young Asian women was awarded £3k by residents, at a PB event in Keighley, West Yorks, and went on to receive £60k of Big Lottery funding on the back of their PB bid.
- Residents Association in Eastfield, North Yorks, received support from PBPartners, the Local Authority and the Police Authority to deliver their first year's PB programme. In the subsequent 3 years, they have delivered it on their own.



Increasing influence

Do you think that you influence what is happening?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
In Manton	30	10
Bassetlaw Local District Council	14	20
Nottinghamshire County Council	8	27

(From a survey of Nottinghamshire residents.

Manton had a PB programme for 6 years)

'I feel I am somebody' Manton resident involved in PB



Improved relations

“I approached this as a local officer would, who thought I was in charge and I knew best. I was very firmly told by the residents that I wasn’t in charge and I didn’t know best – and they were absolutely right.”

Stuart Pudney: Deputy Chief Executive,
Yorks Police Authority

“The PB process has changed (for the better) out of all recognition our relationship with local officers and members”

Chris Parsons: local resident



- www.pbnetwork.org.uk
- www.pbpartners.org.uk

