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
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 Children’s 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

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

Design

Scrutiny and Monitoring

Informing and engaging

Delivery of new projects

Setting of Priorities

Decision Making

Develop budget Ideas

PB budget cycle = participatory activity at all stages
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Manton</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassetlaw Local District Council</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Nottinghamshire County Council</td>
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<td>27</td>
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(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](http://www.pbnetwork.org.uk)

• [www.pbpartners.org.uk](http://www.pbpartners.org.uk)